Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you plan to have turkey this Thanksgiving?

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NATION

There's no room for the baby Jesus this Christmas in a Santa Monica park. ➤ PAGE 16

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Kilili answers questions about Social Security. PAGE 13

Congress' help sought in FICA exemption for foreign workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The help of the U.S. Congress is being sought to help the CNMI government obtain exemption for Filipino and Korean workers from paying federal taxes, at least 10 months since the start of the deductions that the Fitial administration said could result in $24 million in annual "illegal taxes" on the local economy.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday his office has initiated conversations with Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's (Ind-MP) office in getting a congressional panel's support for the idea of exempting these transitional Commonwealth-only workers from paying Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes.

FICA taxes include U.S. Social Security and Medicare. Both employers and employees share the cost of paying these taxes.

See CONGRESS on Page 4

Pilot flown to Manila hospital

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» **Now in stable condition**

The pilot of the plane that crashed early Monday morning at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport has been declared stable and was flown to the Philippine capital of Manila at 4:09pm yesterday for further treatment.

Twenty-six-year-old Korean national Jae Choi is already awake and is responding to treatment, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta and Commonwealth Health Center administrator Karen Buettner.

The pilot was the only victim that was in critical condition as of Monday night due to face and skull fractures sustained in the accident that also killed a female Chinese tourist and injured five other passengers.

In yesterday's press briefing, Buettner disclosed that the pilot can now open his eyes and is able to move after physicians successfully controlled his bleeding.

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'TIS THE SEASON

Minimum security inmates from the Department of Corrections help erect and place colored light bulbs around a 30-foot tall Christmas tree in the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon, as part of the annual project of the First Lady's Vision Foundation in cooperation with the Women's Affairs Office, other Office of the Governor units, Department of Public Works and DOC. Remy Buniag, treasurer of the First Lady's Vision Foundation, said the giant Christmas tree's lighting ceremony will be held at 6pm on Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Dela Cruz is next House vice speaker

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) will be the House vice speaker of the 18th Legislature as a result of a caucus among so-called "Independent Republicans," days after a seeming deadlock with Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan) for the post. The IRs and the Covenant Party have partnered to form a supermajority that will ensure the impeachment of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

» **Senators yet to finalize leadership posts, possible lt. governor**

While the incoming House majority members can now proceed with other tasks, the same cannot be said with the incoming Senate, which has yet to agree on who will be the next president. The choice will be more crucial because the next Senate president will become the lieutenant governor in the event that Fitial is impeached and convicted early next year.

Dela Cruz

Dela Cruz, in an interview yesterday, said he is "humbled" by and very thankful for the strong support of his fellow IRs.

During the IR caucus, representative-

See VICE SPEAKER on Page 4

Local

‘Federalization case dismissed due to misleading due date’

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Lawyer Stephen Woodruff will ask the federal court to reconsider its decision last week on the federalization lawsuit filed by his clients, claiming he was misled by the federal government’s deadline for his clients to submit a response, resulting in the dismissal of the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the first amended complaint that challenged the implementation of the federalization law, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be retried.

“I will be filing a motion to correct, clarify, or reconsider this order in due course,” Woodruff said in a statement, adding that the lawyer for the defendants—Janet Napolitano, et al—was “less than forthcoming with the court” when he filed the motion to dismiss.

Ted Atkinson is the senior litigation counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice representing the defendants in the federalization lawsuit. Woodruff provided the email exchanges between him and Atkinson discussing the court order.

“Please note that both the email service notice for Mr. Atkinson’s motion and the court docket indicated that plaintiffs had until Nov. 29—a date that has not yet arrived—to respond to the motion. The court is, of course, correct as to the provision of the local rules cited in the order, but the fact is I was misled by the Nov. 29 due date indicated in the notice of service and on the docket, which I reasonably believed superseded the applicable local rule,” added Woodruff.

He said he was made to believe that the submission of the plaintiff’s response is Nov. 29, 2012, and not Nov. 8.

Manglona, in a three-page order, stated that the plaintiffs, through Woodruff, have not opposed the motion to dismiss the case filed by the defendants. According to her, failure to submit an opposition may be deemed an admission that the motion is meritorious.

The plaintiffs of the case are mostly foreign workers who oppose the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI.

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GC- Lunch Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	8361	Aiza Garcia

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Federal court finds ad litem fees reasonable; orders govt to pay

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal court designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood ruled Monday that the compensation and fees being charged by NMI Retirement Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano is reasonable and ordered acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan to pay the ad litem $60,949.83 for services rendered in September and October 2012.

Tydingco-Gatewood also ordered the payment for the services of two other Fund lawyers: $1,960 for Braddock J.

See FEDERAL on Page 4

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Kanayjorn named clinical consultant for hospital

»New contracts for lab services, healthcare diagnostics OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has appointed Dr. Esther Kanayjorn as the hospital's interim clinical consultant who will perform the duties of laboratory director—a position that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid said must be filled immediately or CHC will lose its accreditation with the federal agency.

According to corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, Kanayjorn's appointment will be short-term until the U.S. Public Health Services Commission Corps deploys a laboratory director and a manager to the CNMI.

Kanayjorn, an internal medicine physician who is licensed to practice in the CNMI, was appointed on Nov. 16 and will be responsible for the overall operations and administrations of the laboratory department.

She will provide clinical consultation for laboratory clients, assist lab clients in ensuring that appropriate tests are ordered, ensure that reports of test results include information required for patient interpretation, and ensure that consultation is available and communicated to the lab clients on matters related to the quality of the test results reported and their interpretation relating to patient conditions.

CMS gave the corporation only up to Nov. 19 to show proof that it is addressing the concerns a Medicare team had identified at the hospital, including the lack of a lab director and manager.

Deployment

Babauta wrote to CMS on Monday, informing it of the actions the corporation is taking.

"We've received confirmation that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the Department of the Interior, is planning on deploying a 10-member team of the Commissioned Corps to support the CHCC in the near future. We understood that a laboratory director and lab manager are part of that 10-member team," Babauta told CMS' Division of Survey and Certification manager Karen Fuller in his letter dated Nov. 19.

Babauta said the corporation recognizes that while the appointment of Kanayjorn and the deployment of the Commission Corps are temporary solutions, it is necessary to have a permanent lab director in the near future. He assured that the corporation is diligently recruiting for a permanent laboratory director and lab manager and shared with CMS its possible prospects for the positions.

"The plan is to have a contracted and permanent lab director who will eventually transition with the Commission Corps laboratory director," said Babauta.

New contracts

Babauta disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that CMS has also been informed about the new contracts they signed to ensure uninterrupted laboratory services at the public hospital.

The corporation executed a new contract with Diagnostic Laboratory Services, a provider for pathology services and alternative lab provider when reagents were not available at the CHC laboratory.

Before this, DLS had stopped serving CHC due to arrears amounting to $160,257. Babauta said that CHC has already settled this amount and made an advanced payment for the new contract totaling $100,000. This pre-payment serves as a guarantee that services will be available for patients.

Another contract was signed for Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, which is a supplier for microbiology, chemistry, and anticoagulation reagents. The company's contract with CHC was also previously suspended due to nonpayment of arrears. Babauta confirmed that the corporation also paid Siemens $92,275 for past accounts and paid the outstanding orders for reagents totaling $35,298 in September and $15,320 this month.

Other corrections

Babauta reported to CMS on Monday that since funding is a challenge, the corporation is also looking for a supplies vendor that will give CHC the best prices. He said CHCC has begun communications with the HHS Service Supply Center and an account was created in their system last week.

Two policies were also recently developed and implemented by the corporation to address CMS concerns. These include the "Laboratory Alternative Plan" and "Laboratory Stock/PAR Level Reordering" policies.

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Eighty-year-old Leonides Marinas, one of the congregates at the Aging Center, prepares to throw cards into a basket in the ninja card game as Rotarian Ken Kato looks on during the Annual Man'amko Luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Saipan at the center in Garapan yesterday.

Rotary hosts traditional Thanksgiving luncheon for *man'amko*

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Nearly 50 senior citizens at the Aging Center enjoyed a few hours of fun, food and entertainment with members of the Rotary Club of Saipan on Tuesday for the annual Thanksgiving luncheon.

The *man'amko* readily participated in creative table games—ninja card, cerealbox puzzle game, rapid fire, nut stack, and water quarter drop—all facilitated by dozens of Rotarians who came out in support of the island's elderly.

More participation in the games meant more raffle tickets for the *man'amko*, encouraging them to get more involved and excited about yesterday's activities.

Besides the games, the seniors were also kept occupied by Hapi D' Clown who conjured his balloon tricks, and the newer members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band, which played holiday music for their mature audiences.

Congregates and staff at the center, along with the Rotarians, also shared a buffet catered by Herman's Modern Bakery and Natibu, which included Thanksgiving fare such as turkey and ham, along with local dishes like red rice, kelaguen, meatballs, chicken, beef steak, and fruits for dessert.

Tuesday's event took three months of planning, according to Aging director Rose Mondala. "We've been coordinating with [program coordinator] Walter [Manglona] to make sure that this is another successful year for them," she added.

Rotary president Pete Shilling said the annual Thanksgiving luncheon is a "wonderful" opportunity for their members to say thank you to all the *man'amko*.

"Without their experience, their advice, and their good common sense, we wouldn't be the people that we are today," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Shilling expressed hope that the *man'amko* would stay healthy and happy and enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. "We all have so much to be grateful for."

Community Services director Curtis Dancoe said the event brings a different perspective of enjoyment to the island's elderly considering the issues that they have been through this year.

"To come up with these table games and see them literally get up and take part in it brings tremendous enjoyment and great satisfaction," he added.

Dancoe said their organization's service projects, including the luncheon, are made possible by the public who contribute and allow the Rotary to provide for the *man'amko* and others in the community.

He thanked local businesses that donated prizes for the raffle draw: Brabu Pharmacy for their gift certificates; Dickerson & Quinn for laundry detergents; and Hollywood Theaters for the movie tickets.

Dancoe advised the island's elderly to "do something different."

"Challenge yourself, whether it's challenging your mind or body. Get out there and try to challenge yourself and do something. If you don't know, ask somebody," he said.

President Maria Salinas of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council thanked the Rotary on behalf of the entire seniors at the center.

"This was a very nice treat that makes our Thanksgiving truly a day to give thanks," said Salinas.

VICE SPEAKER

From Page 1

elect Ralph Yumul nominated Dela Cruz to become vice speaker and this was seconded by members.

Dela Cruz is the current chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities and Infrastructure, author of the ratified legislative initiative on the election of an attorney general starting in 2014, and one of the co-authors of a defeated impeachment resolution that will be revived in January.

"I don't see why this process [of selection] would affect the relationship [as fellow lawmakers]. We have to work with each other, not against each other," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Incoming House Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) confirmed the result of the IR caucus that selected Dela Cruz as the next in command. Deleon Guerrero is the main author of the impeachment resolution.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) will be the next floor leader, while Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) will continue to be the chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

The main caucus will be held later, at which point the incoming speaker will announce the chairmanship of committees.

Maratita, who filed a lawsuit against the governor over a no-bid $190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement, earlier said she believes women should be represented in the leadership. She is currently off-island.

Dela Cruz said because the speakership will go to Precinct 1, it is "only fitting that the vice speaker should come from Precinct 3." Deleon Guerrero and Maratita are from Precinct 1, while Dela Cruz is from Precinct 3. These two precincts have the most number of representatives—at six each—because of the population.

Twelve IRs and four Covenant Party members make up the 16-member supermajority in the 18th House. Four members of the governor's Republican Party will form the minority in the next Legislature.

In the Senate, most senators are honoring a so-called "gentleman's agreement" in early 2010 that the Senate presidency in the 18th Legislature will go to a senator from Tinian. However, the possibility of the governor's impeachment and conviction has become a source of internal leadership struggle.

Most of the senators are backing Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as the next president because of that gentleman's agreement based on island rotation and seniority, but others are also eyeing the position because of the possibility of being the next lieutenant governor should Fitial step down or get impeached and is convicted.

CONGRESS

From Page 1

"We've got some preliminary meetings with him [Sablan] through his office and we'll be putting together a formal request so that congressional support may be obtained and hopefully Treasury would grant that relief," Inos said in an interview after signing a proclamation on Capital Hill yesterday declaring December 2012 CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Jim Stump from the Office of the Governor met with Sablan's chief of staff, Bob Schwalbach, on Nov. 7 for the request to Congress, Schwalbach said.

Sablan, in a separate interview yesterday, said his office will do its best to assist in the matter, including continued communication with the U.S. House Subcommittee on Social Security under the Committee on Ways and Means.

"The Lieutenant Governor's Office reached out to our office so I will return to Washington, D.C. and continue conversations with the appropriate committee and see if we could get exemption. It is my understanding at this point in time, however, that even if we get a waiver, it would only be up to 2014," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

The federalization transition period ends on Dec. 31, 2014.

The Fitial administration withdrew its lawsuit against the U.S. Treasury to give way to negotiations whose end goal is to continue to exempt Filipino and Korean workers with transitional CW status from paying FICA taxes.

But Inos, who met in Washington, D.C. with U.S. Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur, pointed out that no agreement has been reached yet.

Once an agreement is reached exempting Filipino and Korean workers from paying FICA taxes, these workers will have to apply for a refund with the IRS.

PILOT

From Page 1

The four other Chinese nationals who also sustained major injuries but were later declared in stable condition are still at the hospital's surgery unit. They are currently in a ward where they are able to see and talk to each other to speed up their recovery, as recommended by counseling experts.

Saipan Tribune learned that Choi was scheduled to be transferred to St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, Metropolitan Manila for further treatment.

His attending physicians at CHC recommended his medical evacuation after determining that the patient needs to be seen by a neurosurgeon, a specialist that is not currently available at CHC.

Choi was joined in the air ambulance yesterday by a medical team composed of a doctor and some nurses. The air ambulance was coordinated by Star Marianas Air.

Star Marianas Air executive vice president Shaun Christian, when contacted yesterday, declined to disclose any details about the medical evacuation as well as the company's plans for the other victims of the crash. Christian said that federal investigators were expected to arrive last night and all questions regarding the accident will be referred to them.

The company's legal counsel, Timothy H. Bellas, told *Saipan Tribune* that an agreement between Star Marianas and the Manila hospital has been inked, stipulating that Star Marianas will shoulder all medical expenses that would be incurred.

Meantime, hospital administrator Buettner could not immediately say when the remaining victims will be discharged from the hospital. She said their families have been notified about what happened.

The body of the lone fatality, a female Chinese national, is still at the hospital's morgue as of yesterday and plans as to when the remains will be flown to China are unknown at present.

CEO Babauta reiterated that the accident is still under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration, along with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He said Monday's emergency was extremely well-handled by CHC staff and all its partners and reiterated the preparedness of the hospital for such an incident.

He also praised the hospital's partners for their participation in mitigating the emergency, including the American Red Cross, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Office of Homeland Security headed by Marvin Seman, Emergency Management Office, police and fire departments, Top Development Inc., Century Tours, FBI, U.S. Coast Guard, and others.

FEDERAL

From Page 2

Huesman and $17,975.72 for Daniel J. Berman. The federal judge directed that all payments will be made immediately and will be sourced from the Fund's remaining administrative budget from fiscal year 2012.

The Fund will be reimbursed for these payments by the central government, as ordered by the federal court.

The central government objects to the compensation, saying the amount is unreasonable. It wants the court to relieve the government and the Fund of any responsibility to pay these fees.

In a three-page order Monday, Tydingco-Gatewood said the court is extremely disappointed in the government's disregard for the court order directing that it pay the *ad litem*'s fees and expenses. At no time did the government object to the court order appointing the trustee *ad litem,* along with the provision mandating the government to be responsible for compensation and expenses of the trustee *ad litem* and of any persons or entities employed or contracted by the trustee *ad litem*, she said.

"In fact, the government participated in the selection process of the trustee *ad litem*, having submitted names for this court's consideration. As such, when this court issued the order dated Oct. 17, 2012, directing the government's attorney Reena Patel to contact the trustee *ad litem* to obtain the necessary account information to effectuate the transfer of funds, the court expected the government to comply with its orders," the order stated.

According to the judge, the government should have asked the court to stay its order or seek an extension of the requirement to pay the fees and expenses, but it failed to do so. She reminded all parties that failure to comply with a court order may subject the offending party to contempt of court.

Cops on lookout for impaired driving this holiday season

Law enforcement officers will be on the streets this holiday season to crack down on impaired drivers, make the roads safer, and save lives as part of the national "Drive Sober of Get Pulled Over" campaign from Nov. 26 to Jan. 1.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday a proclamation declaring December 2012 CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, to help raise awareness on the hazards of impaired driving.

"Unfortunately, the holidays are prime times for impaired drivers, but drinking and driving is a choice, and we want to be out in full force to show zero tolerance for those that choose to put their lives and the lives of innocent victims on the line," Inos said in his proclamation.

Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and dozens of law enforcement officers witnessed the proclamation signing in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

Between Jan. 1 and Oct. 31 this year, law enforcement officers made more than 121 impaired driving arrests. Of this number, 31 were involved in alcohol-related crashes.

In December 2010, there were 2,597 people nationwide including the CNMI who lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes. DPS said 30 percent or 77 of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired driving crashes.

Last week, DPS announced that it is looking for more volunteers for the 2012 National Drunk and Drugged Driving "3D" Prevention Campaign.

Those who want to volunteer as designated drivers for the campaign are invited to attend the orientation on Friday, Nov. 16, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Northern Marianas College Student Center Building J. Volunteers should bring the original and copy of a valid CNMI driver's license at the orientation. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro joins DPS police officers and staff for a group photo after yesterday morning's signing of a proclamation declaring December 2012 CNMI Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month and promotion of the "Driver Sober of Get Pulled Over" campaign that aims to raise awareness on the hazards of impaired driving.

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Santos leads Rota school awardees

ANTENILLE SANTOS
Teacher of the Year

NELIA LLANA
Librarian of the Year

PATERNO JOSE HOCOG
Pupil Transportation of the Year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This story is part of a series of articles that Saipan Tribune is publishing in support of the celebration of Education Month by the Public School System.

A language arts teacher was hailed as this year's most outstanding educator at the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School.

Antenille Santos was selected by her peers as this year's Teacher of the Year and she will vie for the Public School System's search for overall CNMI Teacher of the Year awardee this week.

School principal Sharlene Manglona described Santos as an outstanding teacher. "Mrs. Santos is committed to our students and school. She is our only Language Art teacher and goes out of her way to provide lesson plans and activities to all Language Art grade levels from 9th through 12th. She is so dedicated to her job that whenever we call her, she makes herself available. Mrs. Santos is a great asset to our school," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Santos joined the school in 2009. Besides teaching, Santos is also the school's accreditation chairperson, a member of the RHI Leadership Team, the freshmen adviser, is part of the Language Art Learning Team, and oversees assessments, among other roles.

Santos graduated from Rota and received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This is her first time to be nominated for the Teacher of the Year honor.

"I have always pledged that once I have meaningful experiences, I would come back to the CNMI and help my community in one way or another. Although I aim to inspire students to become better citizens, I am humbled because they have inspired me! It is because I see the potential for greatness in these students that motivates me to continue what I am doing. Everyone knows that the economy is in a grave state. We are feeling it [on] Rota because we are so short-staffed at RHI, but even with all the extra duties, these students keep me resilient and continue to foster my love for teaching. It is because of them that my career has meaning and value," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Other awardees

For the Teacher Aide of the Year award, the school selected Terrence Taisacan, an employee of three years.

Deseriee Barcinas was hailed as the school's Instructor of the Year. She started as a teacher aide for special education and rose to become an instructor.

Nelia Llana emerged as this year's Librarian of the Year while Theresa Lizam and Paterno Jose Hocog were hailed Trades and Maintenance of the Year and Pupil Transportation of the Year awardees, respectively.

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CK Headstart parents join Neighborhood Watch

A few month ago, newspaper articles reported that the William S. Reyes Elementary School and the Chalan Kanoa Headstart buildings had been burglarized about five times in a six-month period. CK Headstart CPIC parent leaders Ray Austin and Bryan Manabat discussed the matter with CK Headstart parents and management and with Ramon B. Camacho, a Neighborhood Watch section captain.

The group came up with a unanimous decision in favor of Headstart parents joining the Neighborhood Watch program to help deter theft and other crimes in the WSR and CK Headstart areas.

Nearly half of the parents that came to the meeting signed up to be Neighborhood Watch volunteers. Parents are simply fed up with the thefts and other crimes and want to stand up against crime in a positive way. Chalan Konoa and Chalan Piao parents are committed to building a safer community.

The CK Headstart plans on partnering with the WSR PTSA parents in a joint effort with the Neighborhood Watch program to help keep schools and the community safe. Thank you to the Neighborhood Watch Program and Ramon B. Camacho for the time and efforts in making progress for safer community.

The intent of the Neighborhood Watch Program is to build partnerships with the community to reduce crime and improve livability. It desires to instill a greater sense of security while reducing fear of crimes. The Neighborhood Watch Program helps to create a "sense of community" and put the "neighbor" back in the neighborhood.

Our nation is built on the strength of our citizens. Every day, we encounter situations calling upon us to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement. Not only does the Neighborhood Watch Program allow citizens to help in the fight against crime, it is also an opportunity for communities to bond through service. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ramon B. Camacho, chairman of the Saipan Municipal Council and District 2 Neighborhood Watch Program block captain, speaks to Chalan Kanoa Headsatart parents, children, and teachers.

DEQ sets pesticide importation and ID workshop

The Division of Environmental Quality will be conducting a workshop on how to recognize misbranded pesticide and pesticide devices.

The primary audience for this workshop are employees of CNMI Customs, CNMI Quarantine, and the Bureau of Environmental Health. These agencies are crucial to the enforcement of pesticide regulations. It is, therefore, critical that DEQ provide education to Customs, Quarantine, and BEH to order to prevent the entry of illegal pesticides into the islands and help in achieving compliance.

In order to address the current pesticide importation challenges, DEQ is proposing to host a series of half-day pesticide importation workshops on Dec. 5 on Tinian (8:30am to 11:30am), on Dec. 11 and 12 on Saipan (8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4:30pm), and on Dec. 13 on Rota (8:30am to 11:30am).

The workshop agenda includes but is not limited to an overview of regulations (importation, authority and scope, detainment); understanding labels and recognizing signs for illegal pesticides and devices; and the screening process.

Locations for all workshops shall be announced later. Send an email to reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp to register for any of the workshops. ***(DEQ)***

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAFEA membership meeting, Thanksgiving party set

The Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers & Architects will be holding a General Membership Meeting on Nov. 25, 2012, Sunday, together with the celebration of "Thanksgiving Party" for the year 2012.

The venue for this activity will be at the Micro Beach Pavilion at 11am onward.

All Mafeans or interested engineers are invited to come and be a part of the association's activity. For more information, contact Randy at 888-0899, Erik at 888-0898, Ruel at 285-8863, or Lito at 989-6191. ***(MAFEA)***

CCA board meeting on Nov. 27

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2012, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@cca-marianas.org. ***(CCA)***

DUI checkpoints on Saipan

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on Saipan on Nov. 30, 2012, with the first setup from 12am to 1:15am, along Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Char's Mart. The second setup is from 2:30am to 3:45am, along Chalan Pale' Arnold by the Commonwealth Development Authority Office. minutes).

Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Nov. 21, from 10:30am to 4:30pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

The ABC'S of 401(k) plan

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's November general membership meeting will focus on the topic of "ABC's of 401(k) Plan for Employer/Employee," which will be presented by ASC Trust Corp. The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret today, Nov. 21, 2012, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public. The presentation includes lunch and the cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Reserve your seat by contacting Debra Camacho at 322-6435 or e-mail her at debrac@ptcsaipan.com. ***(SHRM)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 21, 2000

House OKs poker machines at airports

Lameduck or not, the 12th House of Representatives gave signal yesterday that it cannot be written off yet by passing a measure that would allow the Commonwealth Ports Authority to operate amusement machines at ports of entry as a revenue-generating strategy. House Bill 12-400 passed the lower chamber on first and final reading during yesterday's special session, which was largely attended by lawmakers except for Reps. Dino M. Jones and Malua T. Peter, who were both excused. The measure, also known as The Airport and Seaport Amusement Machines Waiver Act of 2001, primarily amends the Commonwealth Code to allow the Authority to own and operate amusement machines at the CNMI's airports and seaports.

New law protects fire hydrants

It is now unlawful for anyone other than authorized persons to use fire hydrants to get water for purposes other than to put out fires, and anyone doing so would be stiffly fined or imprisoned. This came about soon after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law House Bill 12-254, which provides rules and guidelines on the proper use of fire hydrants and other fire suppression devices, as well as penalties for anyone violating these guidelines. According to Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, the measure's author, the unauthorized use of fire hydrants by the public to obtain water has caused damage to hydrants and other fire suppression devices.

Nov. 21, 2002

CPA implements more cost-cutting measures

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will implement tighter cost-cutting measures in financial year 2003 to prevent the erosion of its fiscal condition, hinting the possibility of streamlined functions at all CNMI airports. The ports authority also ordered restrictions on travel unless required by the Federal Aviation Administration-which is reimbursable-or unless the trips are to bring new businesses for the CPA or unless the travels are emergency and safety-related. A recently issued memorandum outlined the ports authority's planned austerity measures for FY2003. As part of this new program, the CPA will intensify the collection of money it has spent on security-related projects, which are up for reimbursement with the FAA.

Agreement reached between Lang, govt

The CNMI government has agreed to pay former governor Froilan Tenorio $140,000, besides possibly shouldering the $12-million judgment against the former chief executive in a taxpayer's lawsuit, if such judgment is affirmed with finality. This agreement, once upheld by a judicial court, could declare moot the cause of action in the separate Rayphand case, which seeks to have Tenorio pay the CNMI government for funds reprogramming that allegedly violated the Constitution. In the Rayphand lawsuit, the Superior Court ordered Tenorio to personally pay the government over $12 million. A settlement agreement reached by Tenorio and the CNMI government also acquitted both parties of any liability with regards to claims "that could have been the subject of the action" filed by lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand.

Nov. 21, 2003

OPA looks into desalination project

The Office of the Public Auditor is looking into the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s alleged violation of certain solicitation procedures on its proposed desalination project on Saipan. This, even as the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications also began its own investigation on the alleged anomalies. CUC board chairman Herman P. Sablan said both the OPA and PUTC requested the release of all related information on the project. "We're complying to their requests. We're not hiding anything here. Let me also state that the CUC is not violating any law," said Sablan.

BOE recreates CIP committee

The Board of Education has approved several amendments to its by-laws and existing rules, including the recreation of a separate capital improvement project or CIP committee. The board previously merged CIP with the fiscal and personnel committee, headed by member Esther Fleming. "We'll have a separate CIP committee again since it will be active in view of the new CIP package we're getting," said BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero, in reference to a new seven-year CIP package from the federal government, which the CNMI expects to get within the fiscal year.

Firms to do environmental regulatory, biological services sought

The Department of Public Works is currently conducting a survey to determine the availability of local individuals or companies that are qualified to conduct environmental regulatory and biological services.

In particular, the department is looking for individuals or firms that have the qualification, skills, experience, resources, and capabilities to perform both federal and local CNMI environmental regulatory and biological services on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian on federally funded projects.

Qualified individuals and companies are being encouraged to submit their company information and supporting qualifications to the Department of Public Works, second floor of the Joeten Commercial Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan no later than Friday, Nov. 23, to the acting secretary of Public Works.

All qualified individuals or firms must have a valid CNMI business license and demonstrate experience and sound knowledge of performing consulting and services dealing with the National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act as it relates to federally funded projects.

Individuals or firms must also have a sound knowledge of the regulatory framework of federal and local compliance and dealing with the environmental conditions surrounding infrastructure projects throughout Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Company information or statement of qualifications is limited to five pages. For inquiries or questions about this survey, contact Sonya P. Dancoe, P.E., highway administrator, or Anthony A. Camacho, acting DPW secretary, at 235-9570 or 5827. ***(DPW)***

Former employee suing CUC for alleged illegal termination

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A longtime employee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is suing his former employer and acting executive director Alan Fletcher for alleged illegal and wrongful termination of his employment contract.

Represented by lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho, former CUC staff Nicolas P. Blas is suing CUC and Fletcher for constructive termination, deprivation of property, interference with economic relationship, and constructive termination in violation of public policy.

Blas said he worked for the utilities firm for more than 16 years and is an exemplary employee, having been hailed in the past as among its employees of the year.

Blas started out as a radio operator and was then transferred to the power plant in Lower Base as a safety specialist. When then executive director Abe Utu Malae took office, Malae assigned him to perform the duties under the power plant safety programs and field safety programs.

Because of the new position, Blas asked for an additional person to work with him and for an assigned vehicle. These requests, he said, were ignored, resulting in the use of Blas' personal vehicle in order to carry out his 24-hour duties.

Blas also claimed he was performing three different jobs at that time: power plant safety program officer, field safety program officer, and industrial wastewater conservation program officer. He claimed he was underpaid.

On or about Jan. 20, 2011, Blas asked for a pay raise, which Malae allegedly rejected. He said he was asked to continue using his own vehicle and that he will be compensated per mile of travel. When it was about time to reimburse the gas mileage, Blas claimed it was never approved. Malae later issued an email clarifying who are eligible for mileage reimbursement.

In March 2011, Blas again requested for gas mileage reimbursement but was denied anew, allegedly because the employee had exaggerated his mileage record.

On May 24, 2012, Malae gave Blas a work order that Blas refused, citing his health and medical condition. The new assignment, he said, is not fit for him as he was not trained in this area.

At that time, Blas applied for a vacation leave that was mistakenly scheduled for May 24 instead of May 25. Blas said he was never accorded the chance to correct the date and was marked AWOL on May 25.

Malae then quit CUC and was replaced by Alan Fletcher.

Blas claimed that once again he was not able to report for work on May 26 due to food poisoning. He claimed that he was not able to call CUC because his cell phone was then disconnected. Blas said he was slapped with 32-hour AWOL by CUC and it was deducted from his paycheck. On June 20, 2012, Blas said he was forced to resign.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13—OPA-027

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2012 MID-TERM ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

Public Law 12-18, the "Northern Mariana Islands Election Reform Act of 2000" (the Act), requires all certified candidates to file a detailed campaign statement of account. This itemized Statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified statement by **December 26, 2012**, shall subject you to a fine of up to **$100 per day** for each day the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account" form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on OPA's website at www.opacnmi.com. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is **mandatory**.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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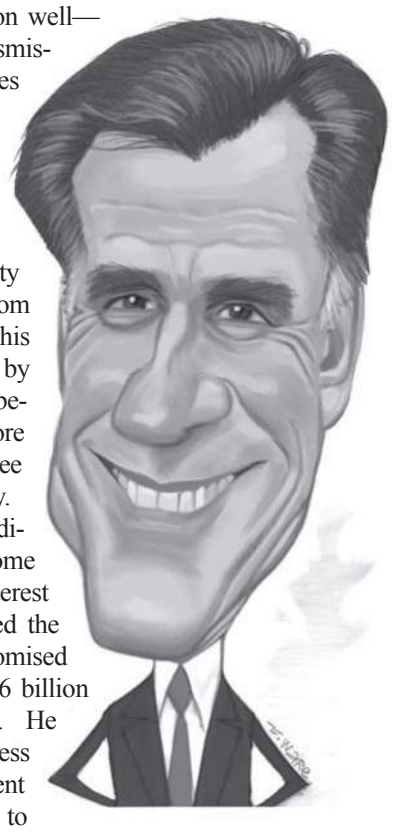
EDITORIAL

Romney illuminates why GOP lost election

The GOP has to find its way back to the political mainstream, but Mitt Romney's take on the election points it in the wrong direction.

In a conference call with his deep-pocket donors Wednesday, he said he lost because President Barack Obama gave "extraordinary financial gifts from the government" to targeted groups of voters such as blacks, Hispanics, women and young people.

If the GOP is going to remain a viable national party—and continue to play its important role in the two-party system that serves the nation well—then it has to shed the dismissive worldview that sees half the nation as wastrels who don't pay income taxes and refuse to take responsibility for their lives.



The lesson the party should take away from Romney's loss is that his message was rejected by an electorate which has become more diverse, more tolerant and doesn't see government as the enemy.

It isn't as though candidate Romney didn't come bearing "gifts" for interest groups, too. He promised the rich lower taxes. He promised seniors he'd restore $716 billion in Medicare spending. He promised corporations less regulation. Is that different from Obama's moves to hold down interest rates on student loans, to ensure that health insurance covers contraceptives, and to allow legal status for those brought here illegally as children?

Rather than seeing his approach and Obama's as a legitimate clash of competing views of what's best for the nation, he fell back on the incendiary makers-and-takers view of the world that imperils his party's future.

Some of the leading GOP contenders for 2016 do see it differently and sought to distance themselves from the legacy of 2012.

"I would just say to you, I don't believe that we have millions and millions of people in this country that don't want to work," said Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal put it succinctly: "We have got to stop dividing American voters."

For some Republicans it's a math question. "Four years from now, Texas is going to be a so-called blue state," is the prediction of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

The nation is changing. The GOP has to adapt.

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Yellow peril no more

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It was the fear of the yellow peril (the Chinks in the American Pacific West Coast that threatened newly arrived wagon train Europeans that culminated in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882) that created our current Immigration Service when a commissioner's office was lodged in the Treasury Department in 1892 to curb the increase of immigration no longer from Europe and Africa but from Asia.

Sinophobia remains with us as seen in the intensity of China bashing in the last U.S. presidential election. More Americans do not trust China compared to the Canadians, Brits, and Aussies who have more trusting ones than those that do not. Japan hates China's guts, and the feeling is reciprocal. Japan accuses China of using history to engage in Japan bashing. China is still waiting for Japan's apologies for the atrocities it committed in Manchukuo, Shanghai, and the rape of Nanjing.

The crisis over the Diaoyuo islands only intensifies the historic animosity. China's term for a foreign devil is *Riben Gau Zi* (Riben is the Chinese word for Japan). The Japanese pirate of old, the marauding *Wokuo,* is the term for a thief and one not trustworthy at all. In Dong Bei, a granite stone park in Shenyang known as *Jiu Yiba,* 9.18, the date of the 1931 Mukden incident—comparable to our 9/11—heralds daily its "day of humiliation."

A gory and gruesome movie of *Qi Sanyao,* 7.31, depicts Japan's biological atrocities in 1937 when it experimented with patients subjected to surgery without anesthesia. "Forgiveness" is not a known category on both sides of the *Bei Hai!*

Outgoing President Hu Jintao and partner in the standing committee of the Politburo Premier Wen Jiabao, however, articulated the current theoretical base of the *Gong Chang Dang* (CPC), which is "scientific outlook on development" in the attainment of democratic socialism with Chinese characteristic. Now that is a jargon-laden statement, if I ever saw one. The Chinese are known for indirection through abstract and general terms, for words are still magical to the ears, and one need not express what would pass for a critique to expose contradictions.

Hu Jintao took the path of harmony throughout his watch, and for the theoretically curious, that was defined as being people-centered earth-friendly as the policy across the board. He got somber, however, when confronted with the reality of corruption within the ranks of the Party, and the dismal disparity of income distribution brought about by the traditional deep cleavage between the urban and rural communities.

The current constitutional narrative goes like this: Marx/Lenin-thought zeroed on the international unity of the workers of the world as the basis of the proletarian revolution, but helpful as the ideology's dialectical materialism was in liberating China from the stranglehold of dynastic feudalism, it was the agrarian peasant in Mao-thought that fueled radical change. Mao is an aggie from Hunan, as opposed to Zhou Enlai's Shanghai urban refinements and Dong Bei's industrial sophistication. Ideologically, Mao stayed with the countryside, against the grain of history, which led to the nightmare of the decade-long Cultural Revolution.

But China does not negate its predecessors, so Deng Xiao Peng's economic reform and opening up to market forces did not to contradict Mao-thought; it supplemented it. Ditto for Jiang Zemin's subsequent "three represents" that finally led to the current Politburo policy of balance and harmonious relationship of the Hu and Wen tandem.

Comes now the mighty seven of China's collective leadership. The designation of the "paramount leader" remains with Xi Jinping as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China, soon-to-be President when Hu's term ends at the National People's Congress in March 2013, but the charism that went with the title during Mao Zedong and Deng Xiao Peng' times are no longer emphasized. President Xi, married to popular folk singer Peng Liyuan, promises to be a more pragmatic, informal, and approachable problem solver.

We missed in our earlier prediction of two of the Standing Committee of the Politburo. Our forecast of seven made five: Xi Jinping as General Secretary, Li Keqiang as Premier of the State Council, Yu Zhengsheng as Chairman of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang as Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Wang Qishan as First Vice Premier. Li Yuanchao as Secretariat Secretary and Vice President, and Wang Yang as Secretary of the Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection did not make the list. Liu Yunshan of Neimenggu, and Zhang Gaoli of Tianjin did. The Politburo did pare down the membership from nine to seven.

Netanyahu of Israel is trigger-happy in Gaza against Hamas, and Iran hosts a conference for the Syrian combatants. Obama domestically faces a "financial cliff" and vows to pass on the cost of stability on the rich rather than continue burdening the muddled middle with taxes. Meanwhile, Egypt inaugurates its elected President the first of December.

The admixture of hope and despair continues. Uncle Sam will be served well if it heeds the balanced voice of "trust but verify" rather than the vicious tones of those who will unleash violent discord. There is no yellow peril in the neighborhood!

Obamacare vs small biz

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Doing business on the islands is both costly and highly prohibitive. It gets doubly worse when the high cost of utilities kicks in. It's one of the reasons foreign capital took an exodus from here in recent past.

Said a Japanese friend who also put up shutters and went elsewhere, "It seems our pioneering efforts aren't appreciated on top of the fact it's no longer profitable doing business here. Why should we stay around?"

Now, if you think the tsunami of assault against business has eased, then take a closer look at the overreaching health law known as Obamacare. I don't recall the CNMI being exempted from any provision of this federal monstrosity. I say take a critical look because it's another pile of taxes and fees that would do the finishing job with small businesses here.

The Manhattan Institute's Diana Furchtgott-Roth explains how that works: "...if an employer offers insurance, but an employee qualifies for subsidies under the new health care exchanges because the insurance premium exceeds 9.5 percent of his income, his employer pays a penalty of $3,000 per worker. This combination of penalties gives a business a powerful incentive to downsize, replace full-time employees with part-timers, and contract out work to other firms or individuals. "The new law will make it harder for small businesses with 50 or more employees to compete with those with fewer than 50 employees. When the employer mandates are phased in 2014, many businesses will be motivated to reduce or move workers from full-time to part-time status. This will reduce employment still further and curtail an already listless economy."

It pays to take another ocular review of Obamacare before it shuts down more private industries here. The CNMI's Washington Office must begin critical review of likely regulatory overreach from the hundreds of major regulations under the Obama administration.

■■■

Health: You're the captain!

For years, we've nurtured the mindset that most things we do, including health, is somebody else's responsibility. In the process, we live and let live until we're in the ER, comatose as family members pray in fear for our recovery. It need not be this way!

Like a car, you're the owner and so you ensure that your auto is serviced at least twice a year, registered every three years, four tires rotated or changed after four years, etc. In other words, you ensure your car is maintained to the hilt so it takes you places when you need it. You ensure it doesn't sputter to a screeching halt, especially in an emergency.

Turn it around and look at your physical health. It's time you take full charge. It needs daily maintenance like eating healthy food, brisk walking thrice a week, avoiding soda including diet drinks, among others. This personal maintenance ensures a healthy you!

In doing so, bring the family along so they too partake in their own personal health maintenance. Once this is inculcated (sinks into each family member) they'd be out on their own practicing healthy habits. In short, mom and dad, you're the family pillar and model. Lead the way!

■■■

Predisposition

We all must deal with two health issues in our lifetime. They are genetics and lifestyle. I would venture a layman's explanation on these issues.

Genetics: In our blood is found what's known as chromosomes. It contains the history of your ancestors and their health. Thus, some of us have inherited what's known as "genetic aberration" where you take after your ancestors with heart problems and diabetes.

When you're genetically predisposed, i.e., born with chromosomes carrying cardiovascular defects, then it means that at some point between 40-60 years old you'd suffer from serious heart ailments. Trust me. I'm a not-so-proud recipient of genetic aberration with heart issues. What happens when you're in this vicious cycle?

Even with being a relatively active athlete and careful with food consumption, my cardiologist said my heart problems had nothing to do with lifestyle. "It's in your blood, sir. You came here with good weight, healthy lungs and others, yet you have this defect. It's genetics." I sat there and quizzed him about genetic aberration until I've come to understand it and the need to spread the word, given the fact that there are families here who're also predisposed.

Being genetically predisposed warrants care as you head into your golden years—ages 55-90. When something's gone wrong, two things happen:

1.) There are physical signs: you feel nauseated or dizzy, tightness in the chest area, tingling sensation on your fingertips, numbness in your arm, among others.

2.) No physical sign or discomfort: you feel nothing at all, though you're marching toward the edge of a cliff. When massive stroke hits, you're basically history! The latter was where I found myself, though fortunate to have caught the consistent decline in the pulse of my heart rate a little early. I wasn't about to second-guess it. What can genetically predisposed do with this defect?

Firstly, it's good to get an annual physical examination so your physician could assist you with issues associated with predisposition. Talk to him about getting a thyroid exam. This gland could trigger serious health issues if it isn't checked. Please get this done so your doctor could assist you in dealing with hyperthyroidism or hypothyroidism.

Secondly, it's good to adopt healthy habits—not that it would deter defects in your chromosomes but at least you could help ease it versus neglect that translate into a more serious or catastrophic ailment. You can do it today and bring the entire family along with you. It's good to know this, including who among your kids are likely to be afflicted with genetic predisposition.

****

"To cease smoking is the easiest thing to do. I ought to know. I've done it a thousand times."—Mark Twain.

No matter who's president, I'm an American

By LANE FILLER
NEWSDAY

It would never occur to me to flee the country because the candidate I favored in a political contest lost an election.

I can imagine plenty of good reasons to flee the country: angry bookies, outraged wives, an announcement that they're going to release three more "Twilight" movies, and my personal nightmare scenario, the outlawing of butter and high-test Coca-Cola.

But pack up the homestead and head for Calgary because the wrong billion-dollar corporate candidate beat the slightly less wrong billion-dollar corporate candidate? I think not.

They don't even have real college football in Canada.

But that always seems to be the big liberal threat: "I swear, if Romney wins, I'm throwing my "Thirtysomething" DVDs, my schnauzer, Kerouac, and the home-brewing equipment in the back of the Prius and heading for the Northern border. I'm a holistic healer. I can make a living anywhere."

But Mitt Romney didn't win, and extreme liberals didn't have to box up their macrobiotic cookbooks and copies of "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" for the big trip. Instead, Barack Obama won, and extreme conservatives, rather than deciding to head for a new nation, are trying to create one. Or 51.

Petitions asking for a peaceful release from the United States and representing every state in the union have been submitted to the White House website. The 51st petition is from ultraliberal Austin, because apparently if Texas quits the nation, some in that city want it to secede from Texas. We'll probably see a petition from a conservative Austintonian named Jim, asking that his house be recognized as a sovereign nation because he hates Austin.

"Welcome to the Republic of Jim," Jim might say to visitors. "Please take off your shoes, as the tidy carpets are considered a national treasure."

Several states, including North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida and Texas, have each submitted more than 25,000 signatures, the number needed to engender a White House response. If I were Obama, my answer would be, "None of you can leave, because as a group you produce 90 percent of the top-notch slow-cooked barbecue in this great land. Admittedly, that's not true of Florida, but I carried Florida for the Democrats twice in a row, so we're keeping them too."

The most astounding thing about the secession movement is that it's caused Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, and RedState.com blogger Erick Erickson to chide those behind it for their extremism. When you out-extreme Perry and Erickson to the right, you've done a full day's work.

The only time any significant number of folks fled to Canada for political reasons, it was the possibility of being deployed to Vietnam that sent them on their way. The only time states went through with an attempt to leave the union, it was to preserve the right to own humans.

In both cases, the defectors were at least divorcing themselves from the United States over matters of great import. Compared to that, a preference for or against Obamacare or a small increase in marginal tax rates seems a paltry reason to give up your nation.

There hasn't been a president I've fully approved of in my lifetime. I haven't lived under a single one whom I felt understood the importance of civil liberties, or the vision of the Founding Fathers, or how beautiful and sacred it really is.

But I'm not looking to move to a new nation, or found one. I'm staying here, and staying American, to fight, write and vote for what I believe in.

As long as I have my butter, high-test Coke, slow-cooked barbecue and college football, no mere president is going to push me off my front porch.

Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday *editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.*

Time for a cease fire in the culture wars

By DANNY WESTNEAT
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—Like most wars, the culture war that has raged for 40 years was expected to eventually exhaust itself, with no clear winner.

Then came this year's election.

"The right has lost the culture war," declared Columbia University professor Thomas Edsall, like a referee calling a late-round knockout.

He based this in no small part on Washington state, where voters legalized both gay marriage and pot. Florida, no liberal bastion, rejected a measure by 10 points that would have barred public funds in abortion.

"On every burning issue that preoccupies the right, the country has moved steadily leftward," he concluded, citing generational liberal drift on contraception, women's rights and the American family.

Is the war really over, I asked the Rev. Joe Fuiten, of Cedar Park Church in Bothell, Wash., who has been in the trenches here for the religious right side for decades?

"I don't know if it's totally lost," he said. "But these are some huge defeats. We are definitely losing."

To him, it's so bad it feels like "the Babylonian Captivity has begun."

Fuiten knows I side with the Babylonians. We sometimes talk across the chasm anyway. I want to understand the concerns about what truly are once-in-a-century changes in social policies. To his credit, he listens to my secular points of view.

He's not sure what his side will do now. Since the 1980s, the religious right locally worked the political system to try to stop abortion, aid-in-dying, gay rights and the erosion of religion from schools and the public square. Only to lose on every front.

"I respect elections," Fuiten said. "That's what's so painful here—it shows this is the society people want. They don't believe the Biblical values anymore."

In Washington state, "we are now living under what I call 'functional atheism,' " he said.

I suggested a more traditional name would be "separation of church and state." The vote wasn't necessarily anti-religion. But it was to keep religion out of government.

For about as long as I've been alive, the religious right, starting with Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, then the Christian Coalition in the '90s through the groups of today, has been trying to win their vision for everyone through politics. That's what has failed.

But that doesn't make religion a loser. Churches could be far more effective if they stayed out of government and spread their gospels the old-fashioned way—quietly, one soul at a time.

Take gay marriage. Church marriage hasn't changed. What gays and lesbians can do now is get a civil marriage license at city halls. But government still has no authority over religious marriage.

And now, for the first time, vice versa. What's so apocalyptic about that?

Fuiten said I'm naive to think we can compartmentalize government from faith."There's no point in having laws if we don't have shared values," he said.

True. But the message of the election isn't that we lack shared values. It's that they don't all come from the Bible. Admittedly that's easier for the godless, like me, to get used to.

So what now? Fuiten says when you're losing, you guard what you've got. He says his church already employs a full-time constitutional lawyer due to worries the new social paradigms may be foisted on them.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

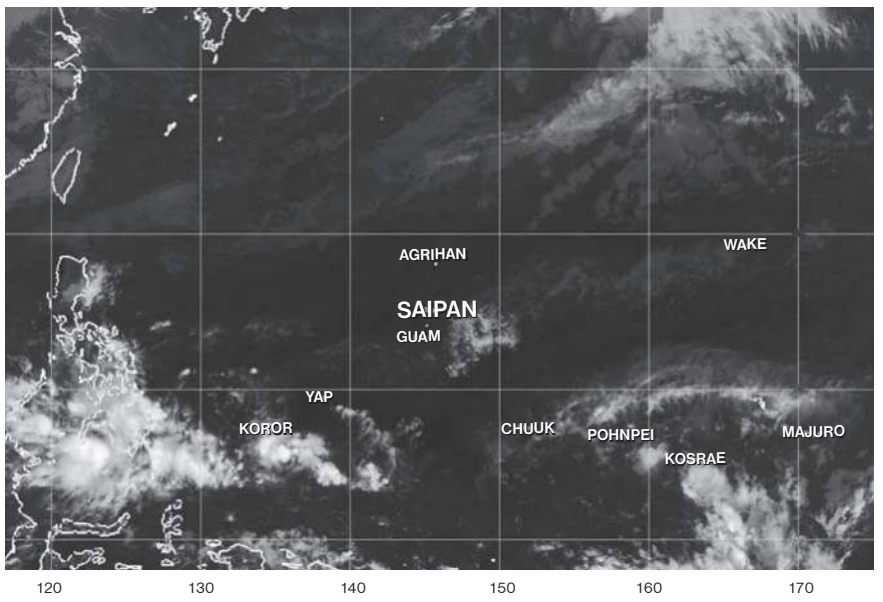
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼56
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼27
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲80	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲68	▼51
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼57
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Paris	Cloudy	▲44	▼40
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼47
Salem	Rain	▲47	▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲52	▼32
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲56	▼40

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are located along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary including Iwo To island. A weakening shear line stretches southwestward from 19N172E passes south of Wake Island and ends east of the Marianas at 12N148E. Low- level cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this feature. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror between 3N and 7N from 130E to 140E and southeast of Majuro within 120 miles of a line from 1N172E to 7N179E. A surface trough extends southeastward from 7N158E to 1N167E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found southeast of Pohnpei and near Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 6N160E to EQ168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
2:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
9:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:42 PM	12:04 AM
Thursday	1:22 PM	12:56 AM
Friday	2:01 PM	1:46 AM
Saturday	2:40 PM	2:35 AM
Sunday	3:20 PM	3:23 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7
0Z608	3:30am	6:40am	3

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:10am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1
0Z606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6
0Z607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN

VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

0Z704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
0Z724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Kilili answers questions about Social Security

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has started answering frequently asked questions about the U.S. Social Security program including the start of deductions and whether it counts as one of the 40 "quarters of coverage," now that CNMI government employees are covered by Social Security.

Federal Insurance Contributions Act or FICA deductions for CNMI government employees didn't start until the pay period beginning Oct. 7, 2012, less than the entire fourth quarter of 2012.

Sablan said this quarter still count as one of the 40 "quarters of coverage" required in order to be permanently and fully insured under Social Security.

Sablan

"As long as your total social security wages between Oct. 7 and Dec. 31, 2012, are at least $1,130, you will earn a quarter of coverage," Sablan said.

In fact, CNMI employees can earn more than one quarter for this year, he said. If one earns at least $2,260, he will be credited with two quarters. If one earns at least $3,390, he will be credited with three quarters. And if one earns at least $4,520, he will be credited with four quarters.

"So even though coverage did not begin until Oct. 7, some CNMI government employees may end 2012 with more than one quarter of coverage. You can never be credited with more than four quarters of coverage in any one year, however. And next year, the base amount of $1,130 for coverage increases to $1,160," he said. Sablan wants people to ask his office if they have a question about Social Security.

The first U.S. Social Security deductions were reflected on CNMI government employees' Nov. 2 paycheck, covering Oct. 7 to 20, because of a two-week lag time in payroll.

The CNMI government moved to re-enter the Social Security program amid the financial crisis plaguing the NMI Retirement Fund.

Bank Pacific's food drive benefits Karidat

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bank Pacific donated food items to Karidat Social Services yesterday morning to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Bank executives and staff presented the donation to Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero and Guma Esperansa supervisor Rose Masayos in a brief ceremony in Garapan.

Fred Camacho, Bank Pacific vice president and CNMI officer, said the canned goods were donated by employees themselves during a two-week food drive.

The donation also included six whole turkeys from the bank's Guam office, which had recommended that Karidat become the beneficiary of the food drive, he added.

"Karidat is very involved in the community and they cater to those in need. Given the holiday occasion, we thought Karidat would be the ideal agency for this initiative," said Camacho, adding that it's been a while since the bank did a food drive for the premier social services agency in the Northern Marianas.

Camacho revealed that the food drive on Saipan coincided with similar projects in their Guam and Palau locations, making the initiative a collective effort for the institution that has provided friendly and personal banking service in the Western Pacific since 1954.

"We're very happy that the staff really helped out with our food drive. We're very pleased that we're doing something for the community given today's challenges that we all face. We believe in Karidat and its program and we hope it continues to serve its mission," he said.

Karidat's Guerrero described Bank Pacific's food drive as "a really nice gesture" and an "awesome way" for its employees to give back to the community and share their blessings.

Save for rice, Karidat's pantry has been empty for a while, according to Guerrero, as they have already distributed to clients the canned goods that have been donated to them or purchased using their limited funds.

"The donation of canned goods will really help our clients because we have not yet received our emergency food and shelter grant," said Guerrero. The grant is awarded by United Way of America, a leadership and support network for charitable organizations across the nation to pool efforts in fundraising and support.

Guerrero noted that the grant is given by calendar year and they have yet to receive this year's funding even though the end of 2012 is just around the corner.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Bank Pacific executives and staff led by vice president and CNMI officer Fred Camacho, left, present their donation of food items to Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero, fourth left, and Guma Esperansa supervisor Rose Masayos, fourth right, in a brief ceremony yesterday morning.

Last year, Guerrero said they received the grant in September and was only given four months to expend it.

"We hope they will allow us to extend the grant period because there are a lot of people needing food and housing assistance," she said.

Karidat also received yesterday food items donated by Marianas High School students.

GetFit CNMI's Beasts for Breasts raise funds for CCA

GetFit CNMI, LLC recently held its first ever breast cancer fundraising event, aptly named, "Beasts for Breasts," with a goal to raise $400 to $500.

"We managed to raise about $500, which we are pretty overwhelmed about considering the size of our membership," said Jose Quan, co-owner and CrossFit trainer at GetFit CNMI. "We officially became a company only about a month ago so we're still a small but growing gym. We knew that as a small, locally-owned business we wanted to play an active role in the health and livelihood of the community so events like Beasts for Breasts is only the beginning for us."

To commemorate October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, GetFit CNMI chose the Commonwealth Cancer Association as the benefactor of its fundraiser.

"It was important to us that whatever money we raised stayed right here in the CNMI so the CCA was the perfect partner. We can thank them enough for all the great work they do helping victims of cancer," Quan added.

Members of GetFit CNMI represent a cross section of the CNMI. Membership is composed of students, accountants, entrepreneurs, police officers, teachers, attorneys, public health professionals, doctors, among a host of other professions.

GetFit CNMI, Inc. is Saipan's newest gym. Their professional, CrossFit-certified trainers offer daily rigorous, whole-body training sessions. They also offer nutritional counseling for members. ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

AMIM CONFERENCE

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mayors, vice mayors, and municipal council members from the CNMI and Guam attend the 19th General Assembly of the Association of the Mariana Islands' Mayors, Vice Mayors and Elected Municipal Council Members on Tinian.

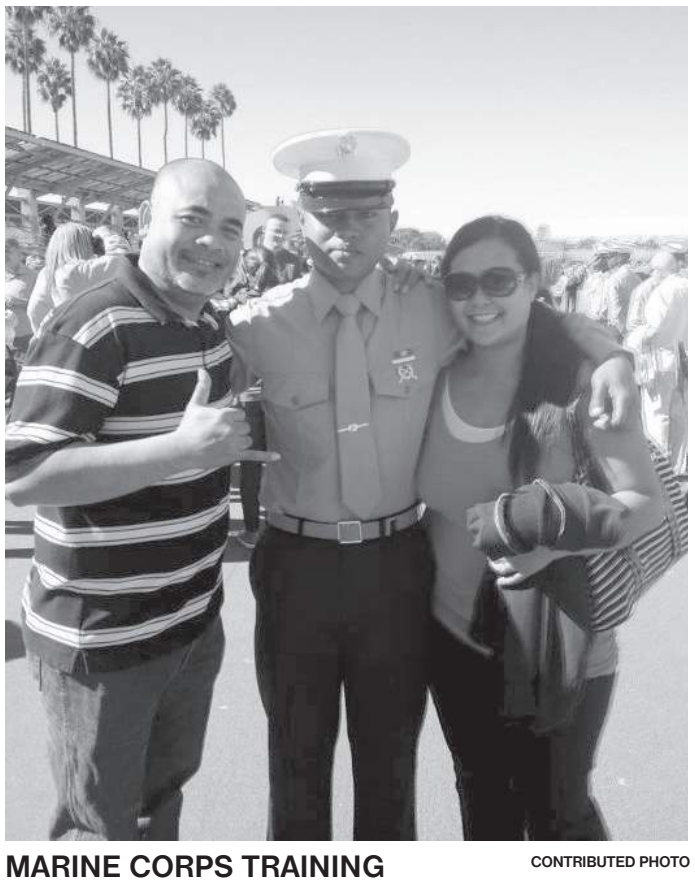
ZONING BOARD MEETING

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Commonwealth Zoning Board members and Zoning Office staff convene for a meeting at their Dandan office on Nov. 15. The proposed text amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law make it easier for home-based businesses to start their operations, according to Zoning legal counsel Kate Fuller.

HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

Joeten Shopping Center representatives Darlene Macaranas and Roman "Bo" Palacios, third and fourth from left, hold up CNMI flags with Operation Homefront Support committee members at the JCT Shopping Center, Susupe, on Tuesday, Nov. 20. JCT donated flags and rice crackers to be used as packing items in this year's OHS initiative.



MARINE CORPS TRAINING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Marine Jason P. Limes, center, of 1st Battalion Charlie Company 1046, who graduated from the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Pendleton on Nov.15, 2012. Welcome home and we are so proud of you! Others in photo are Edson Limes of Washington, left, and Cerlyn Cabrera of Arizona.

MHS CHORUS

The Marianas High School Chorus under the direction of Ruthie Fruit, continues its three-year participation in the Veterans Day celebrations, singing the CNMI and U.S. national anthems. The Chorus, made up of members from the MHS Glee Club, Chorale and Show Choir Class, is proud to represent not only students from MHS but all students whose parents, friends and relatives have served in the U.S. military. Many of the Chorus members are taught by faculty who are veterans, and many have friends and family currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. The MHS Chorus wishes to express appreciation to Ben Camacho, Tasi Tours, American Red Cross, the American Memorial Park staff, and the Veterans Day celebration staff for all their hard work. The Chorus looks forward to participating in next year's celebration!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Wishing our boy Jon Joseph "JJ" Reyes a happy, happy birthday as he celebrates his special day today. Enjoy your special day with many, many more blessed and happy years to come, son. God bless and we love you, bulalalalalala. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, the boyz, and your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 11th birthday to our most wonderful and amazing son/brother, Nathaniel P. Mingefiiy! We wish you a very Happy birthday and many more wonderful and blessed years to come your way. We love you and enjoy your special day. Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Parveen, Sarash, and the entire family near and far.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Twinkies maker Hostess lives at least another day

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Twinkies will live to see another day.

Hostess Brands Inc. and its second largest union agreed on Monday to try to resolve their differences after a bankruptcy court judge noted that the parties hadn't gone through the critical step of private mediation. That means the maker of the spongy cake with the mysterious cream filling won't go out of business yet.

The news comes after the maker of Ho Ho's, Ding Dongs and Wonder Bread last week moved to liquidate and sell off its assets in bankruptcy court. Hostess cited a crippling strike started on Nov. 9 by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, which represents about 30 percent of Hostess workers.

"Many people, myself included, have serious questions as to the logic behind this strike," said Judge Robert Drain, who heard the case in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of New York in White Plains, N.Y. "Not to have gone through that step leaves a huge question mark in this case."

The mediation talks are set to take place Tuesday, with the liquidation hearing set to resume on Wednesday if an agreement isn't reached. Jeff Freund, an attorney for the bakers union, said any guess as to how the talks will go would be "purely speculative."

In an interview following the hearing, Hostess CEO Gregory Rayburn said that there is enormous financial pressure to come to an agreement with the union by the end of the day Tuesday.

He noted that it's costing Hostess about $1 million a day in payroll costs alone to stay alive, with the money mostly going toward management to unwind the company. About 18,000 workers were sent home Friday after the company shuttered its 33 plants, meaning no sales are being generated.

"We didn't think we had a runway, but the judge just created a 24-hour runway," said Rayburn, who added that even if a contract agreement is reached, it's unclear whether all Hostess plants will get up and running again.

Hostess, weighed down by debt, management turmoil, rising labor costs and the changing tastes of Americans, decided on Friday that it no longer could make it through a conventional Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring. Instead, the company, which is based in Irving, Texas, asked the court for permission to sell its assets and wind down its business.

The company, which is in its second bankruptcy in less than a decade, had said that it was saddled with costs related to its unionized workforce. It brought on Rayburn as a restructuring expert in part to renegotiate its contract with labor unions.

Hostess, which had been contributing $100 million a year in pension costs for workers, offered workers a new contract that would've slashed that to $25 million a year, in addition to wage cuts and a 17 percent reduction in health benefits. The baker's union rejected the offer and decided to strike.

By that time, Hostess had reached a contract agreement with its largest union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which urged the bakers union to hold a secret ballot on whether to continue striking. Although many workers in the bakers union decided to cross picket lines this week, Hostess said it wasn't enough to keep operations at normal levels.

2 workers shoulder blame for 2010 BP oil disaster

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The manslaughter charges brought against two relatively low-ranking BP rig workers in the deadly Gulf of Mexico disaster may be as far as federal prosecutors are willing to go. Or maybe they intend to use the two men to work their way up the corporate ladder.

The Justice Department has said only that its criminal investigation is still going on. As a result, others are left guessing about prosecutors' intentions.

"Either there simply isn't evidence that anybody higher up was involved, or the department has concluded the only way it's going to make its case against more senior corporate officers is if it charges and eventually obtains cooperation" from the two men, said David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor and former chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section.

A federal indictment unsealed last week charged BP rig supervisors Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine with botching a crucial safety test before the 2010 drilling-platform explosion that killed 11 workers and triggered the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Two and a half years after the blast, they are the only individuals charged directly in the tragedy, despite a string of government investigations that spread fault among a host of people and companies. BP agreed last week to plead guilty to charges related to the workers' deaths and pay a record $4.5 billion. But none of the company's onshore engineers or executives was accused of wrongdoing in the indictment.

Shaun Clarke, one of Kaluza's attorneys, said the narrow focus of his client's indictment doesn't jibe with the widely accepted conclusion that "multiple failures at multiple levels in multiple companies" led to the blowout.

Unemployment may increase chances of heart attacks

CHICAGO (AP)—Unemployment hurts more than your wallet—it may damage your heart. That's according to a study linking joblessness with heart attacks in older workers.

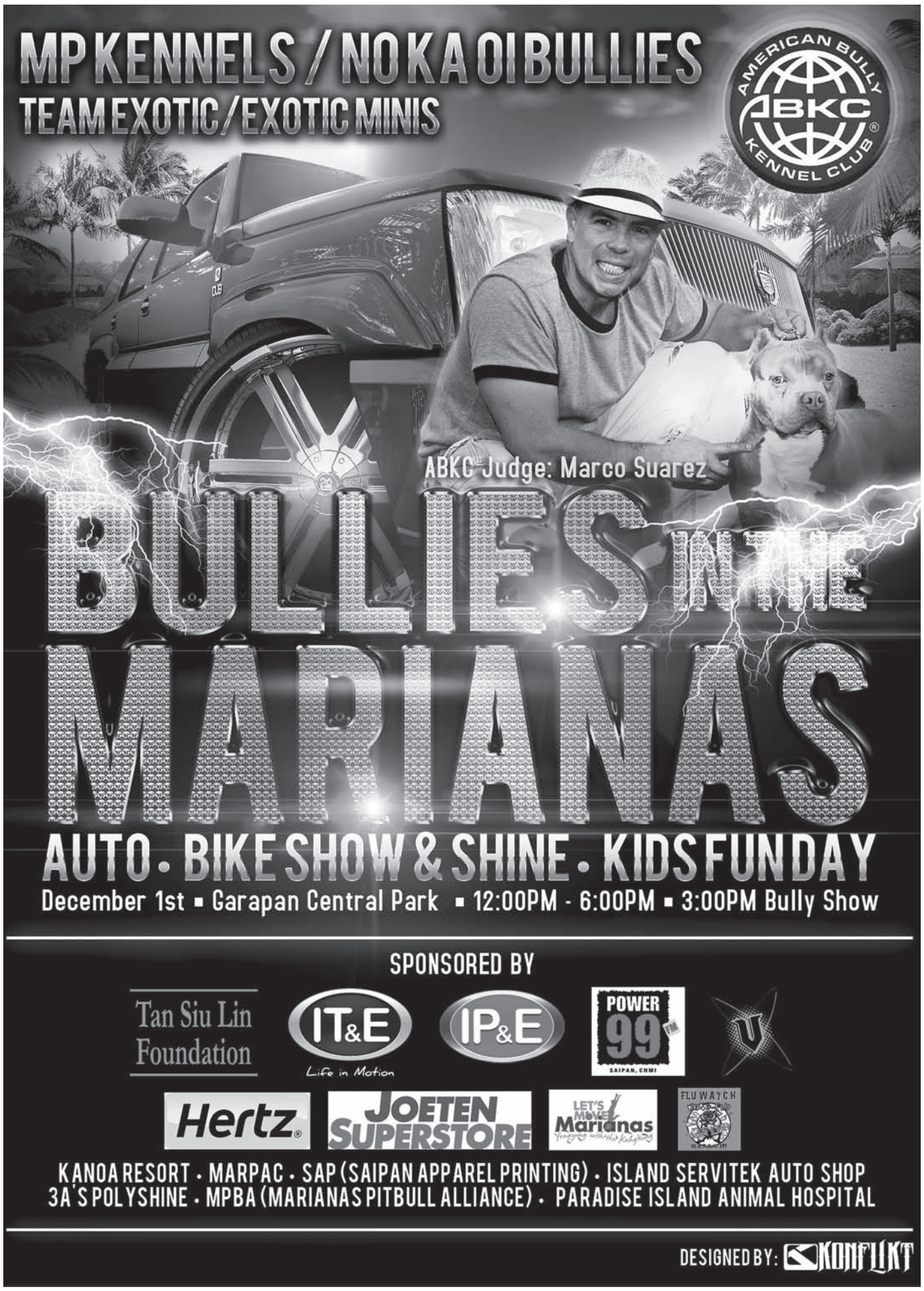
The increased odds weren't huge, although multiple job losses posed as big a threat as smoking, high blood pressure and other conditions that are bad for the heart.

The researchers analyzed data on more than 13,000 men and women aged 51 to 75 taking part in an ongoing health and retirement survey partly sponsored by the National Institute on Aging. Since 1992, participants have been interviewed every two years about their employment and health.

The new analysis has several limitations. The data show periods of unemployment but don't indicate whether people were fired, laid off, out of work while switching jobs, or had voluntarily left a job. The researchers considered all of these situations "job losses," but it's likely the greatest risks for heart attacks were from being fired or laid off, said researcher Matthew Dupre, an assistant professor at Duke University and the lead author. Retirement was not considered unemployment

Sarah Burgard, a University of Michigan researcher who has studied the relationship between job loss and health, called the research solid but said it would be important to know the reason for the unemployment.

"There probably are differences in consequences of job loss when it's voluntary or more or less expected" and when it comes as a sudden shock, said Burgard, who was not involved in the study.


MP KENNELS / NO KA OI BULLIES
TEAM EXOTIC / EXOTIC MINIS
AMERICAN BULLY KENNEL CLUB ABKC
ABKC Judge: Marco Suarez
BULLIES IN THE MARIANAS
AUTO • BIKE SHOW & SHINE • KIDS FUN DAY
December 1st ▪ Garapan Central Park ▪ 12:00PM - 6:00PM ▪ 3:00PM Bully Show
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Nation

Judge rejects Nativity displays in Santa Monica

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's no room for the baby Jesus, the manger or the wise men this Christmas in a Santa Monica park following a judge's ruling Monday against churches that tried to keep a 60-year Nativity tradition alive after atheists stole the show with anti-God messages.

U.S. District Judge Audrey B. Collins rejected a motion from the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee to allow the religious display this season while their lawsuit plays out against the city.

Collins said the city was within its constitutional right to eliminate the exemption that had allowed the Nativity at the oceanfront Palisades Park because the change affected all comers—from Christians to Jews to atheists—and provided other avenues for public religious speech.

The coalition of churches that had put on the life-sized, 14-booth Nativity display for decades argued the city banned it rather than referee a religious dispute that began three years ago when atheists first set up their anti-God message alongside the Christmas diorama.

The judge, however, said Santa Monica proved that it banned the displays not to squash religious speech but because they were becoming a drain on city resources, destroying the turf and obstructing ocean views. Churches can set up unattended displays at 12 other parks in the city with a permit and can leaflet, carol and otherwise present the Christmas story in Palisades Park when it is open, she said.

AP

In this Dec. 13, 2011 file photo, a woman walks past a two of the traditional displays showing the Nativity scene along Ocean Avenue at Palisades Park in Santa Monica, Calif.

"I think all of the evidence that is admissible about the aesthetic impacts and administrative burden shows that this was a very reasonable alternative for the city to go this way—and it had nothing to do with content," she said during a hearing in federal court in Los Angeles.

William Becker, the attorney for the Christian group, said he expects the case will be dismissed at a hearing on Dec. 3 based on Monday's proceedings and plans to appeal.

"The atheists won and they will always win unless we get courts to understand how the game is played and this is a game that was played very successfully and they knew it," Becker said, comparing the city to Pontius Pilate, the Roman official who authorized Jesus' crucifixion.

The trouble in Santa Monica began in 2009, when atheist Damon Vix applied for and was granted a booth in Palisades Park alongside the story of Jesus Christ's birth.

Vix hung a simple sign that quoted Thomas Jefferson: "Religions are all alike—founded on fables and mythologies." The other side read "Happy Solstice." He repeated the display the following year but then upped the stakes significantly.

In 2011, Vix recruited 10 others to inundate the city with applications for tongue-in-cheek displays such as an homage to the "Pastafarian religion," which would include an artistic representation of the great Flying Spaghetti Monster.

The secular coalition won 18 of 21 spaces. Two others went to the traditional Christmas displays and one to a Hanukkah display.

The atheists used half their spaces, displaying signs such as one that showed pictures of Poseidon, Jesus, Santa Claus and the devil and said: "37 million Americans know myths when they see them. What myths do you see?"

Most of the signs were vandalized and in the ensuing uproar, the city effectively ended a tradition that began in 1953 and earned Santa Monica one of its nicknames, the City of the Christmas Story.

Wind, rain pummel Pacific Northwest

SEATTLE (AP)—Rain and wind pounded Washington and Oregon on Monday, flooding streets, toppling large trucks, cutting power to more than 20,000 people and causing at least one death.

Nearly 2 inches of rain fell in six hours in one Seattle neighborhood—a total that Seattle Public Utilities meteorologist James Rufo-Hill called "extraordinary."

"It was a pretty big storm for most of the city—lots of rain in a relatively short amount of time," he said, but several neighborhoods "really got drenched."

The drenching rain caused widespread reports of flooded roads and highways, some residential flooding and even sewage overflows in parts of Seattle and Everett. Several blocks of downtown streets were briefly flooded in Port Orchard, west of Seattle.

Wet weather was expected to continue through the week, but National Weather Service meteorologist Jay Neher in Seattle said Monday night that the "heavy rain is over."

"We're into showers now," he said.

On Oregon's northwest coast, a hunter was killed Monday morning when a tree crashed on his tent near Nehalem. Two hunters in an adjacent camp heard the tree snap as gusts reached more than 70 mph, and saw it lying across the tent. They cut it away in an attempt to rescue the man, to no avail.

Tillamook County Sheriff Andy Long identified the hunter as Nathan Christensen, 52, of Seattle.

A Portland police officer was seriously injured during all-terrain vehicle training when a tree fell. Sgt. Pete Simpson said the accident on Hayden Island in the Columbia River appeared to be weather-related.

In southwest Washington, a Washington State Patrol car and another vehicle were struck by a tree carried by a mudslide on U.S. Highway 101 near Naselle.

The patrol car started burning, and the trooper had to break a window to crawl to safety. The trooper was unhurt, and the female driver of the other vehicle was OK except for neck pain. Both vehicles were destroyed by the fire.

Strong winds overturned large commercial trucks on two highways Monday. One tractor-trailer rig tipped over while crossing the Astoria-Megler Bridge that carries U.S. 101 across the Columbia River. That caused a lengthy traffic headache.

Another tractor-trailer rig was blown onto its side in the middle of the Chehalis River Bridge in Aberdeen, on the Washington coast, Aberdeen police said.

Peak wind gusts in Washington reached 101 mph on the Astoria bridge and 61 mph at Hoquiam on the coast. They hit 114 mph on isolated Naselle Ridge in the mountains of southwest Washington, the Weather Service reported.

Woman, 3 grandkids killed on ND reservation

NEW TOWN, N.D. (AP)—A well-kempt northwestern North Dakota home teemed with FBI investigators Monday as they tried to piece together evidence in the grisly weekend shooting deaths of a woman and three of her grandchildren.

In a nearby community, a man described only as a "person of interest" in the killings apparently killed himself just hours after their deaths.

Martha Johnson, 64, and three of her grandchildren—Benjamin Schuster, 13, Julia Schuster, 10 and Luke Schuster, 6—were gunned down in the home Sunday afternoon, Mountrail County Sheriff Ken Halvorson said. Johnson's husband was out hunting. A fourth grandchild, a 12-year-old boy, was in the home but wasn't hurt and called 911, the sheriff said.

New Town is on an American Indian reservation called Fort Berthold. The suicide that followed occurred in Parshall, a reservation community about 20 miles from New Town. The man, in his 20s, killed himself with a knife in front of a deputy and a highway patrolman, Halvorson said.

Authorities declined to identify the "person of interest," but did say he was an enrolled tribal member. Neither Johnson nor her grandchildren were members, Halvorson said.

The FBI is leading the investigation into the deaths because the federal government has jurisdiction over crimes on reservations. FBI spokesman Kyle Loven declined to release details, citing the ongoing investigation.

He said late Monday that the name of the man who killed himself and what role—if any—he played in the deaths would not be released until authorities pieced together what happened.

Both Halvorson and the FBI said they didn't think there was any danger to the public, but New Town, a community of fewer than 2,000 residents, remained on edge Monday. Slayings are relatively rare in North Dakota, which is home to fewer than 700,000 people. FBI statistics show that in 2011, only 24 murders and non-negligent manslaughters occurred.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ind. home explosion now homicide investigation

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Authorities launched a homicide investigation Monday into the house explosion that killed a young couple and left numerous homes uninhabitable in an Indianapolis neighborhood. Indianapolis Homeland Security Director Gary Coons made the announcement after meeting with residents affected by the Nov. 10 blast and shortly after funerals were held for the victims, who lived next door to the house where investigators believe the explosion occurred. "We are turning this into a criminal homicide investigation," Coons said, marking the first time investigators have acknowledged a possible criminal element to the case.

Search warrants have been executed and officials are now looking for a white van that was seen in the subdivision the day of the blast, Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry said. Federal authorities are offering a $10,000 reward for information in the case.

California sells out of first pollution permits

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California sold out of the first pollution permits issued as part of a landmark offensive against greenhouse gases at an inaugural auction that regulators said Monday went smoothly. The effort to curtail carbon emissions involved the sale of 23.1 million permits—each allowing for the release of one ton of carbon—for $10.09 apiece, the California Air Resources Board said. The permit sales last week opened the largest carbon marketplace in the nation and the second-biggest in the world after the European Union. The California air board will hold four such auctions a year. "By putting a price on carbon, we know we are beginning the process of breaking our dependence on fossil fuels," Mary Nichols, board chairman, said during a conference call with reporters.

Police make arrest after monkey dies at Idaho zoo

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Police arrested a 22-year-old man Monday after a monkey at the Boise zoo was found dead over the weekend, shortly after a zoo security guard frightened away two intruders. Michael J. Watkins, of Weiser, Idaho, was arrested on felony burglary and grand theft charges in Washington County, Idaho, where he was being held Monday night. A citizen's tip led police to Watkins after identifying a hat found in the monkey's enclosure as similar to one Watkins was wearing the night of the break-in, Boise Police Chief Michael Masterson said. Watkins also sought care at a hospital for injuries to his upper torso sometime after the incident, and the story he gave to hospital staff "did not seem to mesh up with the injuries," Masterson said at a news conference Monday evening.

Asia

Obama wades into Asian territorial row

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama, center, walks to his seat during the East Asia Summit at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—President Barack Obama's attendance at an annual summit of Southeast Asian leaders sets him right in the eye of the region's most stormy dispute: the long-raging rivalry between China and five neighbors for control of strategic and resource-rich waters of the South China Sea.

Neither the U.S. nor China is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, but each has strong supporters in the 10-member group. ASEAN summit host Cambodia, an ally of China, has tried to shift the focus to economic concerns, but Beijing's territorial disputes with countries including U.S. ally the Philippines have overshadowed discussions.

The disagreement sparked a tense moment Monday at the summit when Philippine President Benigno Aquino III challenged Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who had tried to cut off discussion of territorial disputes.

An expanded meeting called the East Asia Summit involving all ASEAN countries and eight other nations, including China and the United States, will be held Tuesday in Phnom Penh.

Obama was expected to reiterate during the summit that Washington takes no sides in the territorial disputes but will not allow any country to resort to force and block access to the South China Sea, a vital commercial and military gateway to Asia's heartland. Washington has also called for the early crafting of a "code of conduct" to prevent clashes in the disputed territories but it remains unclear if and when China would sit down with rival claimants to draft such a legally binding nonaggression pact.

Myanmar or Burma? Obama calls it both on visit

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Officially at least, America still calls this Southeast Asian nation Burma, the favored appellation of dissidents and pro-democracy activists who opposed the former military junta's move to summarily change its name 23 years ago.

President Barack Obama used that name during his historic visit Monday, but he also called Burma what its government and many other people have been calling it for years: Myanmar.

Obama's use of that single word was warmly welcomed by top government officials here, who immediately imbued it with significance.

Myanmar presidential adviser Ko Ko Hlaing called the wording "very positive" and said it was an "acknowledgement of Myanmar's government," which has taken major steps toward easing repression and transitioning to democratic rule since the military stepped aside last year.

Speaking aboard Air Force One after Obama's departure, U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said the presidential phrasing was "a diplomatic courtesy" for Myanmar's reformist President Thein Sein.

"It doesn't change the fact that the United States government position is still Burma," he said. "But we've said we recognize that different people call this country by different names. Our view is that is something we can continue to discuss."

The issue is so sensitive that Obama's aides had said earlier Monday he would likely avoid mentioning either politically charged name. But he used both during his six-hour trip—"Myanmar" during morning talks with Thein Sein, "Burma" afterward while visiting with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi herself was criticized by the government for calling the nation Burma during a trip to Europe over the summer. The government said she should use the proper name, "Republic of the Union of Myanmar," as stated in the constitution. But Suu Kyi has said "it's for each individual to make his or her own choice as to which he or she uses."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan president: US violating detainee pact

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president accused U.S. forces of capturing and holding Afghans in violation of an agreement to turn over that responsibility to his forces, complicating a new round of security talks between the two countries. Hamid Karzai's statement late Sunday came just days after the beginning of negotiations on a bilateral security agreement that will govern the U.S. military presence in the country after the majority of troops draw down in 2014. Karzai's critics say he frequently strikes populist, nationalist poses that give him leverage in talks with the Americans. Karzai, in turn, has said that he needs to protect Afghanistan's national interest in the face of a much stronger partner.

Stampede during Indian religious festival kills 14

PATNA, India (AP)—A power outage panicked crowds offering prayers on the Ganges River during a religious festival, sparking a stampede that killed six children and eight other people, police in eastern India said. Hundreds of Hindu worshippers had gathered along the riverbank in Patna, Bihar state, to pray to the sun god during the Chhath festival, according to police Superintendent Jayant Kant. People who had filled a makeshift bamboo walkway leading into the Ganges trampled one another as they fought to get to shore, he said. About 20 people were rushed to the hospital and about six were in critical condition, he said.

World

Israel, Hamas trade fire, tough truce plans

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers traded fire and tough cease-fire proposals Monday, and threatened to escalate their border conflict if diplomacy fails. No deal appeared near.

An Israeli airstrike targeting a Gaza media center killed a senior militant and engulfed the building in flames. The Israeli military said the Islamic Jihad were using space there as a command center.

Gaza fighters fired 95 rockets at southern Israeli cities, nearly one-third of them intercepted by an Israeli missile shield.

A total of 38 Palestinians were killed Monday. Two more Palestinians were killed in airstrikes past midnight, bringing the death toll since the start of Israel's offensive to 111, including 56 civilians. Some 840 people have been wounded, including 225 children, Gaza heath officials said. Three Israeli civilians have been killed and dozens have been wounded.

Over the weekend, civilian casualties in Gaza rose sharply after Israel began targeting the homes of what it said were suspected militants.

Two such strikes late Monday killed five people—a father and his 4-year-old twin sons in northern Gaza and two people in the south, medics said.

Jamal Daloo, who lost his wife, a son, four grandchildren and five other members of his family in an attack Sunday, sat in quiet mourning Monday next to the ruins of his home, his face streaked with tears.

"The international public opinion witnessed the facts," he said, speaking as his 16-year-old daughter, Yara, was still missing under the rubble being cleared away by bulldozers. "This does not require my words."

The Israeli military says Gaza militants fire rockets from residential areas. Late Monday it released footage it said showed was a miliant weapons depot hidden in a Gaza neighborhood.

Egypt, the traditional mediator between Israel and the Arab world, was at the center of a flurry of diplomatic activity Monday. Egyptian intelligence officials met separately in Cairo with an Israeli envoy and with Khaled Mashaal, the top Hamas leader in exile.

Hamas wants Israel to halt all attacks on Gaza and lift tight restrictions on trade and movement in and out of the territory that have been in place since Hamas seized Gaza by force in 2007. Israel demands an end to rocket fire from Gaza and a halt to weapons smuggling into Gaza through tunnels under the border with Egypt.

US *tries behind scenes to end* Israel-Hamas warfare

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—The Obama administration worked hard behind the scenes Monday to end almost a week of warfare between Israel and Hamas, pressing America's Arab and European allies to convince Palestinian militant groups to cease firing rockets from the Gaza Strip into the Jewish state.

On a diplomatic tour of Asia, President Barack Obama called Egyptian President Mohammad Morsi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss ways to halt the violence. Obama underscored that the onus was on Hamas to stop shooting rockets at Israel on a day when at least 95 were fired off, bringing the total to over 1,000 in the current round of fighting. At least 100 Palestinians and three Israelis have been killed since last week.

Traveling with the president from Myanmar to Cambodia on Monday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke by telephone with the foreign ministers of France, Qatar and Turkey. She also sought to advance efforts to de-escalate tensions in calls with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Egypt's prime minister, who visited Gaza last week.

None of the diplomacy has had a significant effect yet. Israel and Hamas say they are open to diplomatic mediation efforts being led by Egypt, but they are far apart in their demands. And they say they're prepared for further escalation.

Israeli aircraft struck crowded areas in Gaza and killed a senior militant with a missile strike on a media center Monday, broadening its targets in an offensive meant to quell Hamas. Yet rocket fire from Gaza by Hamas and other militant groups showed no sign of being snuffed out.

Washington is limited in what it can do diplomatically.

The Obama administration has firmly supported Israel's right to self-defense, saying only that the U.S. ally should seek to avoid civilian casualties. And the U.S. can only hope to exert influence over Hamas by proxy, because it considers the group a terrorist organization and doesn't allow contacts between its members and American officials. For that reason, it is relying on countries such as Egypt, Turkey and Qatar to deliver its message to Gaza's rulers.

Syrian Islamists reject Western-backed opposition

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's increasingly powerful Islamist rebel factions rejected the country's new Western-backed opposition coalition and unilaterally declared an Islamic state in the key battleground of Aleppo, a sign of the seemingly intractable splits among those fighting to topple President Bashar Assad.

The move highlights the struggle over the direction of the rebellion at a time when the opposition is trying to gain the West's trust and secure a flow of weapons to fight the regime. The rising profile of the extremist faction among the rebels could doom those efforts.

Such divisions have hobbled the opposition over the course of the uprising, which has descended into a bloody civil war. According to activists, nearly 40,000 people have been killed since the revolt began 20 months ago. The fighting has been particularly extreme in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and a major front in the civil war since the summer.

Salman Shaikh, director of The Brookings Doha Center in Qatar, said Monday the Islamists' declaration will unsettle both Western backers of the Syrian opposition and groups inside Syria, ranging from secularists to the Christian minority.

"They have to feel that the future of their country could be slipping away," Shaikh said. "This is a sign of things to come the longer this goes on. The Islamist groups and extremists will increasingly be forging alliances and taking matters into their own hands." The West is particularly concerned about sending weapons to rebels for fear they could end up in extremists' hands.

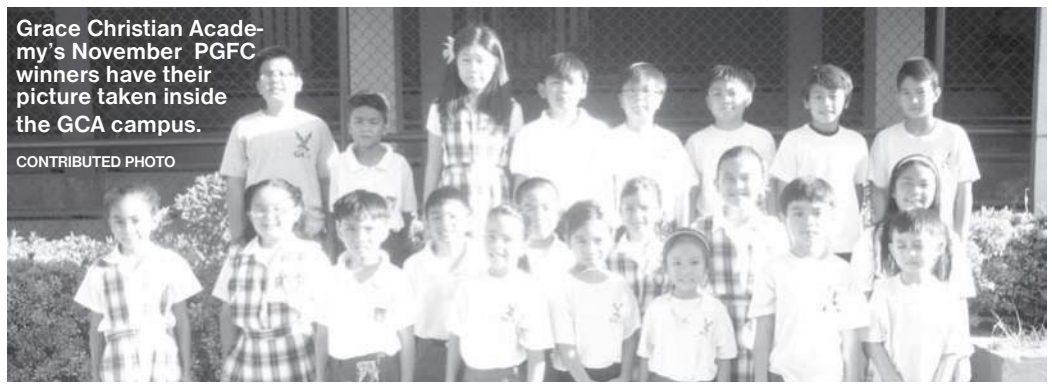
In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said that since the new opposition group has endorsed pluralism and tolerance, "it's not surprising to us that those who want an extremist state, or a heavily Islamist state in Syria have taken issue with this."

The Islamists' announcement, made in an online video released Sunday, shows the competing influences within the rebellion, between religious hard-liners who want to create an Islamic state in Syria—including foreign al-Qaida-style jihadi fighters—and the newly formed Syrian National Coalition, which was created earlier this month in hopes of uniting the disparate groups fighting Assad's regime.

Campus Life

Congratulations to GCA November PGFC winners

Bagging the most first place awards, the administration, faculty and staff, and parents of Grace Christian Academy would like to extend their congratulations to the following winners and everyone who participated in the second Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition held at Mount Carmel School on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012. PGFC competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: reading, public speaking, and interpretations.



Grace Christian Academy's November PGFC winners have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

K-2 DIVISION

■ Impromptu Speaking A
Briston James Jones, 2nd Place
Alana Carrasco, 3rd Place
Lance Andrei Lerio, 5th Place
■ Impromptu Speaking B
Kei Lizama, 1st Place
Makena Carrasco, 2nd Place
Brandie Matsumoto, 4th Place
■ Dramatic Interpretation A
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st Place
Steven Adriatico, 3rd Place
Juruel Neilan Magtalas, 4th Place
■ Duo Interpretation A
Julianna Rue Magtalas, 1st Place
Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, 1st Place
■ Readers Forum Masters A
Julia Christine Jinang, 4th Place
Sara Elizabeth Keaton, 5th Place
■ Readers Forum Masters B
Steven Adriatico, 1st Place
Ryan Daproza, 3rd Place

3-5 DIVISION

■ Impromptu Speaking A
James Alexander Keaton, 1st Place
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, 2nd Place
Clerisse Llanah Dacumos, 5th Place
■ Impromptu Speaking B
Jim Michael Ham, 1st Place
Arvin Dayao, 2nd Place
Jamin Elliot, 3rd Place
■ Reader's Forum Masters B
Na Lee Lee, 3rd Place
Lanz Jabez Victoria, 5th Place
■ Dramatic Interpretation A
Robert Hanrey Schorr, 3rd Place

Volunteer judges: Beatrice Fatialofa, Nancy Chua, Jeremiah Neal, Glenn Keaton
PGFC coordinator: Esther Manzano

Golden Harvest's sixth graders make it to NJFL

Once again, sixth graders of Golden Harvest International School proved their worth by winning major awards in the National Junior Forensic Competition on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 at the Saipan Southern High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students win major awards in the National Junior Forensic Competition on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 at the Saipan Southern High School.

The NJFL competition involves students from sixth to eighth grades in both private and public schools in the CNMI.

To our winners, thank you for bringing honor to your school and for making us proud! To our parents, teachers, coaches, and judge, thank you for providing them the opportunity to explore and showcase their God-given potential. Your support and dedication truly made a difference.

NJFL Winners:
1st Poetry, Mathew Leon Guerrero
1st Prose, Ryan Louise Divino
1st DI, Mark Daniel Ibanez
2nd HI, Ryan Louise Divino
3rd DI A, Mathew Leon Guerrero
OO A, Mark Daniel Ibanez
5th Imp, Mark Daniel Ibanez
5th PO A, Mark Daniel Ibanez
2nd DUO, Mathew Leon Guerrero and Ryan Louise Divino
Judge: Amelia Ibanez
Coaches: Marilyn Divino and Nestor Tam

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE:	November 12, 2012
CLOSING DATE:	November 24, 2012
Position:	(3) Accountant
Salary:	$888 - $1,200 per month
Qualification:	Bachelor's degree plus a minimum of five years of work related experience. Knowledgeable with AccPac Accounting system is preferred.
Position:	(1) Computer Network Specialist
Salary:	$888 - $1,200 per month
Qualification:	Associate's degree plus a minimum of five years of work related experience. Knowledgeable with Excel and AccPac system is preferred.
Position:	(1) Refrigeration Specialist
Salary:	$888 - $920 per month
Qualification:	Associate's degree plus a minimum of six years of work related experience. Knowledgeable in the maintenance of vending machine is preferred.

POI Aviation invites qualified US workers to apply for the following position:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Deadline: November 23, 2012
For details, please contact the Human Resources Office at 288-0360.

Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has openings for:

One (1) Graphic Artist
Minimum qualifications: Four years experience as a graphic artist for wholesale company with a minimum of 550 sales items.
Duties: Designs and creates visual products to meet company's promotional needs, including designing and creating promotional displays and marketing brochures, signs and signage system, packaging, menus, and other visual products. Formulates visual marketing campaign and overall design concepts for company to reach target markets. Applies critical thinking and problem solving analysis to various design concepts and approaches that can be utilized to attain the desired effect on the target market. Creates innovative design solutions utilizing knowledge of graphic design theory and methodologies in conjunction with current cultural trends, trends, market demographics, cultural preferences, and seasonal shifts to achieve optimum market response. Produces and coordinates the execution of mock-up and final graphic design and artwork for the visual products.

One (1) Building Custodian
Minimum qualifications: Three months experience as building custodian or maintenance worker.
Duties: Keeps buildings and business premises in clean and orderly condition. Performs cleaning duties, such as cleaning floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish from inside and outside of business premises. Performs routine maintenance activities and notifies management of need for repairs. Requisition supplies or equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties.

One (1) Sales Representative
Minimum qualifications: Associates degree (may be foreign and/or educational equivalent).
Duties: Sells company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Meets with customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's products. Quotes prices and credit terms for purchase of company's products. Prepares sales slips or sales contracts and may collect payment from customers. Ensures that customers' orders are properly filled. Arranges for delivery of products to customers.

One (1) Sales/Delivery Person
Minimum qualifications: Three months experience as a sales/delivery person or cashier.
Duties: Sells and delivers company's merchandise to retail stores and outlets. Informs regular customers of new products or price changes. Writes customer orders and sales contracts according to company guidelines. Collects money from customers, make change, and records transactions on customer receipts. Listens to and resolves customers' complaints regarding products. Record sales and delivery information on daily sales or delivery record. May call on prospective customers to explain company products or to solicit new business.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Century Tours, Saipan

Opening Date: **November 19, 2012** Position: **Operations Clerk (9)**
Closing Date: **November 23, 2012** Salary: **$5.55 - $6.60 per hour**

Duties: Performs all and/or any combination of following duties requiring knowledge of systems or procedures: operates office machines, such as desktop computers, laptops, typewriter, adding, calculating, and duplicating machines; enters room bookings and room report for bookings into computer and forwards the information to Shanghai office via email and telephone; confirms and reconfirms hotel bookings with Shanghai office; inform Tour Guides of guests bus number assignments; prepare correspondence, bills, statements, receipts, or other documents, copying information from one record to another; photocopies documents, using photocopier; answers correspondence and emails, and prepares mail and email to Shanghai office; obtains travel and hotel accommodations for guests; prepares tour schedules and itineraries, and compiles reports of transactions; obtains confirmation of travel and lodging space and rate information; prepares guests tour booklet, copy of tour itinerary, written lodging confirmations and tour suggestions. answers guests and Shanghai office inquiries concerning tour routes, sightseeing schedules, fares and fees, and accommodations; prepare activity forms for Tour Guides; prepare key envelopes for incoming guests; sorts and files records; copies data and compiles records and reports; finalize guests name list to hotels; make bus reservations; Answers telephone, conveys messages, and runs errands; reply to Shanghai office emails, and perform other related duties assigned or as required.

Position Requirements: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience in tour operation, sales or service related experience; must be able to speak, read, and understand Mandarin; excellent communication, organizational, and sales skills preferred; must be willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Front Office of Century Tours, located at the Kanoa Resort on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: 11/15/2012 **Closing Date:** 11/22/2012

One (1) Dress Maker, One (1) Branch Manager-Car Rental, One (1) Accounting Manager, One (1) Commercial Cleaner, One (1) Accountant, Two (2) Sales & Marketing Associates & One (1) HR & Admin Specialist

Applicants must be fully qualified, with valid Police & Health Clearance, clean driver's record, willing to work flexible hours, multi-tasking & assigned in other locations of the company. Starting rate is minimum wage or up depending on the qualifications i.e. w/ training certificates, job related experiences, posses a high school, associate degree, college diploma or foreign equivalent. For inquiry or interview, please contact Ms. Aileen Arnold-Soriano at 288-0373

Fax your resume at (670) 288-0389 or email at islandereprocess@yahoo.com

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(3) Cook
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative and fully qualified cook who is passionate about food. Must have 3 years prior experience preferably in a hotel. Must have the ability to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the unit. Ability to relate to individuals from diverse ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds and to work with them in a fair, supportive and cooperative manner.

(1) Guest Relations Agent – China Market
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Must have 2 years prior experience in this field preferably in a hotel. Is responsive and genuine with guests and colleagues and confident with guest interactions. Able to read and write English and Mandarin Chinese. Can communicate alternative and positive solutions to problems and is adaptable and suitable to change. Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills are essential. Must be willing to work a flexible schedule including holidays, week-ends and nights.

Applications may be obtained and submitted at our security guard office located on the South Wing. All applications must be submitted by the closing date November 30, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Life & Style

Revised John Paul II statue inaugurated

ROME (AP)—The city of Rome unveiled a revamped statue of Pope John Paul II on Monday after the first one was pilloried by the public and the Vatican.

Artist Oliviero Rainaldi said he was pleased with the final product, saying it matched his original vision. He blamed workers for a botched assemblage the first time around.

When the larger-than-life statue was first unveiled in May 2011, it was widely criticized by passers-by as looking more like Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini than the beloved Polish pope. The Vatican's own art critic wrote that it looked like a "bomb" had landed.

That few could recognize it as honoring John Paul was a "sin," critic Sandro Barbagallo declared.

Rome's mayor quickly assembled a committee of art experts, culture officials and scholars to work with Rainaldi to make the sculpture match what had been approved in his sketches.

Rainaldi said the work involved "small corrections" to the "errors" made during the initial assembly.

The revisions unveiled Monday focus on the pope's face: he smiles now and has a neck and more defined chin rather than a stern expression on a bowling-ball-shaped head. His outstretched arm—with his cloak opened in a gesture of welcoming and protection—is straightened out.

The bronze's greenish hue is also evened out, the dark brown stains that marked the head and cloak mostly removed. And the statue now has its own enclosed pedestal rather than the patch of grass and bush that surrounded it previously.

Umberto Broccoli, Rome's superintendent of cultural heritage, said it was only natural that the work would elicit a range of opinions, saying Italy is a country of 50 million soccer referees, 50 million art critics and 50 million politicians.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(04) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years' hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
- Certified nephrology Nurse (CNN) – Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

(01) Licensed Practical Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX-LPN and current CNMI LPN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- One to four years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resusciation.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

(04) Building Maintenance & Repair
- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks.
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing, security systems, solar panel maintenance and construction with solester inverter experience.
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and partitions.
- Maintains and repairs various equipment.
- High school graduate or equivalent.
- Prefer skills training in electrical, plumbing and other building trades areas.
- Extensive work experience with hemodialysis/maintenance is required.
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Must have a valid driver's license.

(01) Water Treatment and Hemodialysis Technician
- The water treatment technician must be able to perform a number of tasks which may at first glance not appear difficult but require a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain the system. the ideal employee will possess:
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory of fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems.
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment and distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit.
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities.
- Be familiar with the safety and life safety policies.
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency test for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II preferred.
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing and hemodialysis techniques.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with electricity.
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques for working with pressure vessels for heomodialysis.
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing and hemodialysis techniques especially when working with pvc.
- Extensive experience of disposal of hazard waste per protocol.
- In service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
- Solar panel maintenance/construction with solester inverter experience.
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned.

(02) Commercial Cleaner
- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, polishers, buffers, etc.
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings.
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required.
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste, and other disposable materials.
- Must handle various cleaning solvents, chemicals, etc.
- Damp dust furniture , light fixtures, window, etc.
- Empty trash containers daily.
- Wet mop floors and bathrooms daily. Damp mop all corridor floors, lobby, and others daily.
- Report any needed repairs immediately.
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc, periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby.
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping services
- Must be able to work flexible hours.
- Must have own transportation.
- Is required to clean employee's house prior to and post occupancy.
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner the Business, Dr's., Accounting, Dietician, and Clinic Manager's Offices.

Interested applicants must submit an application or resume to St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please call 234-2902 and ask for Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola.

Registered Nurse (RN) – Nurse Case Manager

A Nurse Case Manager position in support of a Saipan based company that conducts medical care and related medical support services for Worker's Compensation Claims globally. This position requires a dedicated, hard working and trustworthy Registered Nurse who has experience in a wide range of administrative, managerial and operational tasks.
Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Obtain medical treatment plans from treating physicians in various countries.
- Review and Approve Treatment plans with Company Medical Doctors.
- Communicate treatment plans and approval with Clients.
- Manage worker's compensation claims.
- Schedules meetings, as required.
- Prepare and update Claimant medical schedule.
- Prepare and update Clients of medical status.
- Performs administrative duties such as proofreading, quality control, telephone calls to field case managers and clients to ensure that treatment plan is followed and updated.
- Prepare medical reports for clients.
- Provide medical expertise to Company personnel as needed

Qualifications and Skills:

- U.S. Citizen, or U.S. Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder).
- A four-year Nursing degree from an accredited U.S. institution (Foreign Institution may be acceptable).
- Current Registered Nurse certification.
- Five years nursing work experience.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Experience in Worker's Compensation medical Claims
- Experience in working with Insurance Companies as it relates to medical care approvals.
- Demonstrates knowledge of various computer applications (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook etc.) and office machinery (e.g. fax, scanner, and printer).
- Ability to handle multiple priorities, work efficiently and meet deadlines.
- Ability to think creatively.
- Ability to follow specific instructions on various cases.
- Ability to work in a team environment.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Ability to maintain case confidentiality.
- Knowledge of insurance industry is helpful.
- Demonstrates cultural sensitivity and experience in working in a cross-cultural environment.

Work hours 9:00 am – 6:00 p.m. Salary commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants are invited to send your detailed resume stating personal particulars, qualification, employment history, remuneration expected and contact number to:

Tacticor International, Inc.
Director of Administration
Emmie Kaur
ekaur@tacticor.com

For more information, you may visit us at - http://www.tacticor.com

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

(01) Registered Nurse
- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License.
- At least two or five years experience.
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

(01) Front Office Manager
- At least over five years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record.
- English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- College graduate
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedure and diagnosis
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spread sheet and general accounting skills.

(01) Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician
- At least five years experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology
- Must be over five years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/ Knowledge with Practice Partner software in electronic health records usage.
- Licensed by the medical Profession Licensing Board, CNMI

(01) Health Clinic System Manager
- A minimum of two to four years of work-related skill, knowledge, or experience.
- Bachelor's degree, or equivalent.
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintenance of all Company's computer systems to include computer hardware, computer software, computer network and advance server skills.
- Overseas medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software.
- Overseas administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system.
- Building maintenance repair, electronic record and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with medical and Medicaid standards.
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned.

(01) Clinic/Yard Maintenance
- Preferred skills and experience
- Building Construction/Renovation experience
- Experience solar maintenance pv models
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
- Must be flexible with time schedule

Please submit applications or resume to Health Professional Corporation dba Saipan Health Clinic at Chalan Kiya, Saipan or call Connie or Judy at (670) 234-2901 ext. 124 for more information.

Wranglers say 'Hobbit' animals died on unsafe farm

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Animal wranglers involved in the making of "The Hobbit" movie trilogy say the production company is responsible for the deaths of up to 27 animals, largely because they were kept at a farm filled with bluffs, sinkholes and other "death traps."

The American Humane Association, which is overseeing animal welfare on the films, says no animals were harmed during the actual filming. But it also says the wranglers' complaints highlight shortcomings in its oversight system, which monitors film sets but not the facilities where the animals are housed and trained.

A spokesman for trilogy director Peter Jackson on Monday acknowledged that horses, goats, chickens and one sheep died at the farm near Wellington where about 150 animals were housed for the movies, but he said some of the deaths were from natural causes.

The spokesman, Matt Dravitzki, agreed that the deaths of two horses were avoidable, and said the production company moved quickly to improve conditions after they died.

"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," the first movie in the planned $500 million trilogy, is scheduled to launch with a red-carpet premiere Nov. 28 in Wellington and will open at theaters in the U.S. and around the world in December.

The animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) says it's planning protests at the premieres in New Zealand, the U.S. and the U.K.

Kathy Guillermo, a senior vice president at PETA, said whistleblowers on The Hobbit contacted the organization after it had taken an active role in exposing problems on other movie sets. The organization sent a letter to Jackson last week outlining its concerns.

"We want to send a clear message to Hollywood that they need to be very careful when using animals and take all the precautions that need to be taken," Guillermo said.

The Associated Press spoke to four wranglers who said the farm near Wellington was unsuitable for horses because it was peppered with bluffs, sinkholes and broken-down fencing. They said they repeatedly raised concerns about the farm with their superiors and the production company, owned by Warner Bros., but it continued to be used. They say they want their story aired publicly now to prevent similar deaths in the future.

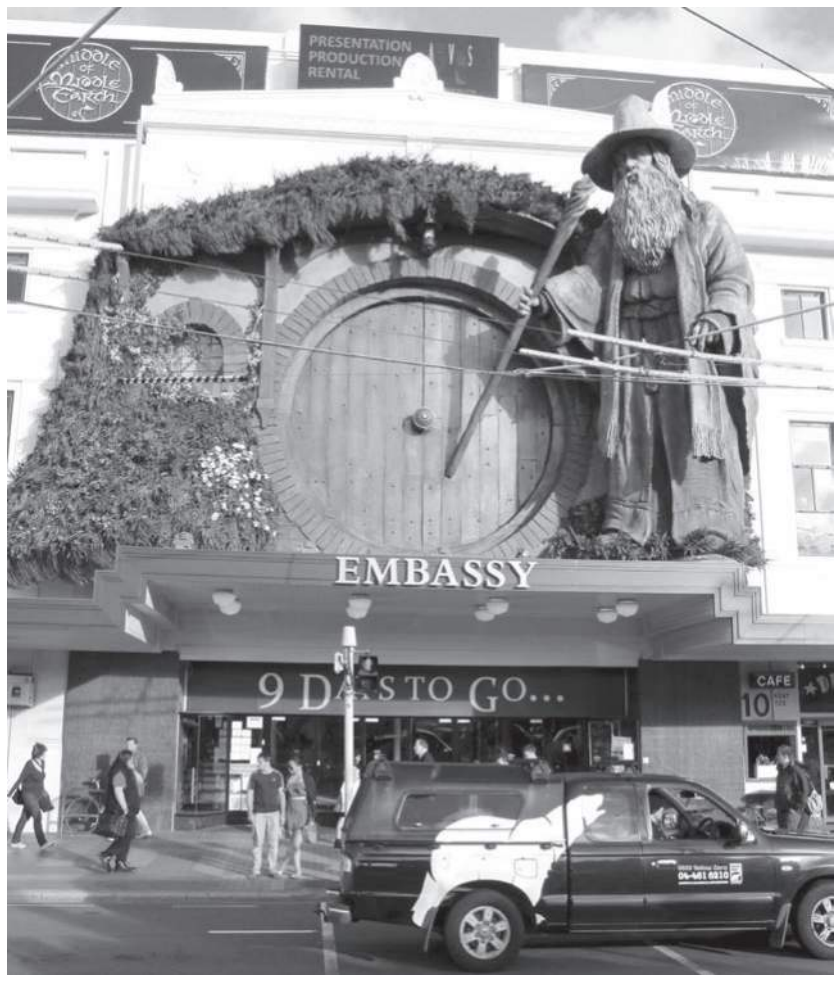
One wrangler said that over time he buried three horses, as well as about six goats, six sheep and a dozen chickens. The wranglers say two more horses suffered severe injuries but survived.

Wrangler Chris Langridge said he was hired as a horse trainer in November 2010, overseeing 50 or so horses, but immediately became concerned that the farm was full of "death traps." He said he tried to fill in some of the sinkholes, made by underground streams, and even brought in his own fences to keep the horses away from the most dangerous areas. Ultimately, he said, it was an impossible task.

He said horses run at speeds of up to 30 mph and need to be housed on flat land: "It's just a no-brainer."

The first horse to die, he said, was a miniature named Rainbow.

"When I arrived at work in the morning, the pony was still alive but his back was broken. He'd come off a bank at speed and crash-landed," Langridge said. "He was in a bad state."



AP
People walk by the Embassy Theater where a giant statue of the character Gandalf from the upcoming movie "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" overlooks the passersby in Wellington, New Zealand, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.

Rainbow, who had been slated for use as a hobbit horse, was euthanized. A week later, a horse named Doofus got caught in some fencing and sliced open its leg. That horse survived, but Langridge said he'd had enough.

He and his wife, Lynn, who was also working as a wrangler, said they quit in February 2011. The following month, they wrote an email to Brigitte Yorke, the Hobbit trilogy's unit production manager, outlining their concerns.

Chris Langridge said he responded to Yorke's request for more information but never received a reply after that.

Wrangler Johnny Smythe said that soon after Langridge left, a horse named Claire was found dead, its head submerged in a stream after it fell over a bluff. After that, he said, the horses were put in stables, where a third horse died.

Smythe said no autopsy was performed on the horse, which was named Zeppelin. Veterinary records say the horse died of natural causes, from a burst blood vessel, but Smythe said the horse was bloated and its intestines were full of a yellow liquid; he believes it died of digestive problems caused by new feed.

Smythe said the six goats and six sheep he buried died after falling into sinkholes, contracting worms or getting new feed after the grass was eaten. He said the chickens were often left out of their enclosure and that a dozen were mauled to death by dogs on two separate occasions.

Smythe said he was fired in October 2011 after arguing with his boss about the treatment of the animals.

A fourth wrangler, who didn't want to be named because she feared it could jeopardize her future employment in the industry, said another horse, Molly, got caught in a fence and ripped her leg open, suffering permanent injuries.

Dravitzki, the spokesman for Peter Jackson, said the production company reacted swiftly after the first two horses died, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars upgrading housing and stable facilities in early 2011.

"We do know those deaths were avoidable and we took steps to make sure it didn't happen again," he said.

Dravitzki said Zeppelin died of a burst blood vessel and that he knew only of three goats, one sheep and about eight chickens that had died aside from that. He said two of the goats died in a cold snap but the third, like the sheep, was old and had likely died of natural causes. He said the chicken maulings were the result of careless staff oversight.

For Ang Lee, all movies are a leap of faith

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Is there anything Ang Lee can't do?

The pithy answer might be: Large, angry, green men. Yes, Lee's "Hulk" was not well received. But in his incredibly varied filmography, Lee has steadily steered films that could very well have turned disastrous into box-office hits and Oscar bait.

Combining martial arts with drama? "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" became the highest grossing foreign language film ever, more than double any previous foreign film. A film about gay cowboys? "Brokeback Mountain" went on to be nominated for eight Oscars, winning three including best director.

Few filmmakers have been so drawn to such delicate material where even slight shifts in tone or execution could mean the difference between a hit or a flop. That couldn't be truer for Lee's new film, "Life of Pi," a supreme balancing act for a filmmaker accustomed to working on tightropes.

In an interview the day after "Life of Pi" premiered at the New York Film Festival in September, Lee sat down with obvious relief. Asked how he was doing, Lee exhaled: "Better than I thought."

The first screening had gone well: the 3-D "Life of Pi" was greeted as a success and immediately added to the Oscar race. For even Lee, knowing which side of the sword a film of his will fall isn't clear until the first audience sees it.

"I've been holding this anxiety for a long time. It's an expensive movie," says Lee. "It's really like the irrational number of pi. For a long time it felt that way—not making sense."

"Life of Pi," which 20th Century Fox will release Wednesday, contains, Lee says, "all the no's" of filmmaking: kid actors, live animals and oceans of water. It's adapted from Yann Martel's best-selling 2001 novel, in which a deadly shipwreck maroons a boy (Suraj Sharma) on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger.

Lee

Not only does filming such a tale involve considerable challenges, the story is ultimately a spiritual journey—and matters of God and faith are far from typical blockbuster fodder. For those reasons and others, the project went through several previously attached directors, including Alfonso Cuaron, M. Night Shyamalan and Jean-Pierre Jeunet.

Lee, then, was a kind of savior, one of few directors capable of corralling all the difficult elements of "Life of Pi." His imprimatur helps carry it, given that the cast is one of unknowns (Sharma, only 17 when cast, hadn't previously acted), digital creations (a combination of real tigers and digital effects were used) and international actors (Irrfan Khan, Gerard Depardieu).

Tobey Maguire, who starred in Lee's "The Ice Storm" and "Ride With the Devil," was initially meant to give the film a dose of star power, but he was recast (with Rafe Spall) after proving an awkward fit.

Elizabeth Gabler, president of Fox 2000 Pictures, calls the film—whose budget exceeded $100 million—a huge gamble. The international cast and the PG-13 rating, Gabler says, will hopefully make "Life of Pi" ''an international adventure for people of all ages."

"Why do I dare, a Chinese director, do Jane Austen when I still speak pidgin English?" Lee says, referring to his 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." ''It's still a leap of faith, you're taking a risk. Every movie is unknown. If it's known, then no studio would lose money."

Lee was born and raised in Taiwan, where he initially pursued acting. Artistic endeavor in '60s and '70s Taiwan, he says, was considered a low profession and not the choice of his father. Ever since, patriarchs have been a connecting tissue in Lee's protean filmography. Responding to a comment that father figures—including one in "Life of Pi"—have often been focal points in his films, Lee corrects: "I think always."

"I never rebelled against him but he told me what I do is," he says. "The father figure is something I love, but also suffocate from and want to work against. My mother loves me and everything goes well. I have no conflict with her, so that's not dramatic."

Lee emigrated from Taiwan to attend college at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and then film school at New York University. The 58-year-old still lives in the New York area, the Westchester suburbs, with his wife and two sons.

His first three films, all in Mandarin and revolving around Chinese families, were followed by a distinct break with "Sense and Sensibility," his Hollywood arrival. But it was 1997's "The Ice Storm," an adaptation of Rick Moody's novel about a Connecticut family's disaster in the swinging '70s, that Lee says changed his perception of filmmaking and set him on a new path.

"A movie is really provocation," says Lee. "It's not a message, it's not a statement. Before I thought: I have a story to tell, not even thinking of myself as an auteur. But that is a precious lesson to me, to take a step back—a respectful step back."

"Something about cinema, how it works in wonders, you just have to respect it," he adds. "You should never believe fully like you know."

"Life of Pi" was certainly full of its own lessons and trials. Lee spent a year making a 70-minute pre-visual animation of the middle chunk of the film set at sea. He had a giant water tank built in an abandoned airport in his native Taiwan, ("Taiwan will do anything for me," he joked at the NYFF). Still, because of the considerable technical challenges, he says he only got an eighth of his planned shot list.

He was led to 3-D not by James Cameron's "Avatar," which was released after planning on "Life of Pi" began, but by searching for "another dimension" to tell such a story. The results, achieved with cinematographer Claudio Miranda, are perhaps the best 3-D work since "Avatar," including a memorable flying fish scene and the glorious visuals of a whale surfacing in moonlight.

For the film's young star, the gentle, humble, self-deprecating Lee was a mentor.

"He makes you so calm that you just let him mold you into whatever he wants to mold you into," Sharma says. "He really showed me that I could do a lot more than I ever thought I was capable of doing."

Lee may be "a Zen master" like Sharma claims, but his tranquility won't abide one thing: Anyone who doesn't cherish the precious chance to make a movie. "If you don't give 100 percent, I get mad," he says.

It's enough of an all-consuming process that Lee doesn't contemplate his next film until he has seen through the present one.

He says: "I'm still surviving this one."

MTV special profiles young people with HIV

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV is airing a special next week with profiles of three young people who have the HIV infection, amid worries that some people are taking the condition too casually.

The special, "I'm Positive," is scheduled to air Dec. 1. Drew Pinsky, who is one of the show's producers, said that if it does well, he hopes it can become a regular series.

In three decades, infection with the virus that causes AIDS has gone from a virtual death sentence to a chronic condition that can be controlled with early detection and a drug regimen. But even if it doesn't develop into full-blown AIDS, there's still some doubt about the long-term health implications of living with HIV and the drugs designed to keep control of it, Pinsky said.

Pinsky

"People are taking it too casually ... and forgetting about it," Pinsky said.

A generational divide is evident in the profiles on "I'm Positive." California girl Kelly, one of the three subjects, feels in control of the situation despite her infection. The mother of Stephanie, a single Southern girl infected through one instance of unprotected sex, is distraught and thinks her daughter is about to die.

The third profile subject, Otis, had a hard time telling his family that he was HIV positive since it was only a year earlier that he revealed he was gay.

As proven by its programming on teenage pregnancy, MTV finds that this documentary-style programming is a good way to reach its young viewers with a message.

"Young people relate when they see their peers struggling with this phenomenon," Pinsky said.

MTV began running "safe sex" campaigns in 1985, and has been encouraging youngsters to get themselves tested for 15 years in an effort funded together with the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Two in five people infected with HIV each year in the United States are between the ages of 13 and 29, MTV's targeted audience. More than 1.1 million Americans are living with HIV infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

50 Cent takes swing at promoting boxing in Nevada

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Rapper and entrepreneur 50 Cent is taking a swing at promoting boxing in Nevada.

50 Cent

Nevada Athletic Commission executive Keith Kizer said Monday the entertainer and businessman whose real name is Curtis James Jackson III won approval last week for a promoter's license.

The company is called SMS Promotions. It's handling a Dec. 8 bout at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas between Cuban-born Miami-based boxer Yuriorkis Gamboa and an opponent yet to be named.

Messages left Monday with the company in New York City weren't returned.

Kizer says 50 Cent and boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. had been talking about forming a promotions company called TMT Promotions.

But the rapper told the commission those plans fell through, and the fledgling business was being absorbed by SMS Promotions.

'Lincoln' director Spielberg speaks in Gettysburg

AP

Director Steven Spielberg, left, and Janet Morgan Riggs, President of Gettysburg College, pause after laying a memorial wreath during a ceremony to mark the 149th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's delivery of the Gettysburg Address at Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pa., Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.

GETTYSBURG, Pennsylvania (AP)—Film director Steven Spielberg's claim to worldwide fame and one of the greatest careers in Hollywood history didn't stop him from expressing a sense of humility Monday, as he delivered the keynote address during ceremonies to mark the 149th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

"I've never stood anyplace on earth where it's easier to be humbled than here," said Spielberg, whose biopic about the 16th president is currently in theaters.

His remarks were made at the annual event at the Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg, near the site where Lincoln gave the famous oration amid the American Civil War in 1863, four months after the battle in which the Union turned back an invasion of the North by Confederate troops under Gen. Robert E. Lee.

After spending seven years working his new movie "Lincoln," Spielberg said the president came to feel like one of his oldest and dearest friends, and he sensed he was living in the presence of what he called Lincoln's "eloquent ghost."

"Lincoln wanted us to understand that equality was a small 'D' democratic essential," Spielberg said, describing Lincoln's three-minute speech as "his best and truest voice" and the single "most perfect prose poem ever penned by an American."

Carl Sandberg, in his biography of Lincoln, described it as a speech about how democracy is worth fighting for.

"It had the dream touch of vast and furious events epitomized for any foreteller to read what was to come," Sandberg wrote. "His cadences sang the ancient song that where there is freedom men have fought and sacrificed for it, and that freedom is worth men's dying for."

As part of the event, 16 newly minted Americans from 11 countries took the oath of allegiance to become U.S. citizens.

Spielberg, who has twice won an Academy Award for best director, spoke of the interplay between history and memory, and between memory and justice.

"It's the hunger we feel for coherence, it's the hunger we feel for progress for a better world," he said. "I think justice and memory are inseparable."

The crowd, estimated at 9,000, gave him a standing ovation.

Penn State film major Alison Golanoski, 19, from Gettysburg, said afterward that Spielberg's passion for Lincoln came through.

"He was very invested in Lincoln as a person, and his personality," Golanoski said. "I loved all of it."

The 150th year since the battle will be marked in 2013, particularly around the battle's anniversary in early July.

Rock band AC/DC releases its entire catalog on iTunes

NEW YORK (AP)—AC/DC is finally releasing its music digitally on iTunes.

Columbia Records and Apple announced Monday that the classic rock band's music will be available at the iTunes Store worldwide.

Sixteen studio albums will be released, including "High Voltage" and "Back in Black." Several of the Australian band's albums and songs have made their way on iTunes' Top 100 albums and songs charts.

AC/DC was one of the few acts that would not release music through the digital outlet. Two years ago, Apple struck a deal with The Beatles' record label, EMI Group, and management company and began selling the group's music. Kid Rock, who had also been against selling his music through the digital retailer, is releasing a new album, "Rebel Soul," on Monday and it's available on iTunes.

Silvio Pietroluongo, Billboard's director of charts, said AC/DC's decision isn't shocking.

"It's something that I think artists realize they need to do in order to get their music into the hands of their fans and to make more money," he said. "Right now with CD sales being what they are, touring is the main source of income and not every band is equipped to be out on tour 200 days a year to make the kind of money they need to make, or want to make."

Garth Brooks, however, has yet to release his music on iTunes. Pietroluongo said he believes the country star will come around, but he's not sure when that will be.

Four of AC/DC's live albums and three compilation records are also available. The statement said the songs have been mastered for iTunes "with increased audio fidelity."

The group's first live album in 20 years, "Live at River Plate," is out Tuesday.

Male server gets wrong kind of gratuity at country club

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My 24-year-old daughter and 21-year-old son work as banquet servers at a local country club. Many of the receptions at which they serve include guests consuming large amounts of alcohol.

If an intoxicated male guest made suggestive comments to my daughter or touched her, he would be asked to leave the facility. But what is my son supposed to do when an intoxicated woman, usually much older than he, pinches his backside and makes inappropriate comments or "invitations"?

My son isn't a prude. His sense of humor allows him to "laugh it off," but it happens often and he is becoming annoyed. In fact, he'll say, "Mom, it's pretty gross!" Abby, what are these woman thinking? What should he do to promote self-respect but not cause an uncomfortable atmosphere for himself and the guests?

CURIOUS MOM IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MOM: The employee protection rules are no different for males than they are for females. What your son should do first is document the incidents with dates, times and the women involved. He should then report their behavior to the banquet supervisor at the country club. I'm sure the person in charge will want to know, because if the sexual harassment isn't stopped, it could result in a very embarrassing—and possibly costly—lawsuit against the club.

DEAR ABBY: I recently began dating a widowed co-worker. We are both private people and we have kept our personal lives out of the workplace. Only our close friends at work know we are dating.

The issue we now face is the office gossip queen has spotted us out and about, and is asking all our friends about whether or not we're dating. We barely know this woman and don't care much for her. How do I politely respond when people start asking me about my boyfriend?

I'm concerned that if I tell them we're seeing each other, I'll be treated differently because he had been widowed only a short time. I have spent my entire life avoiding the drama machine, and now I'm afraid I'll be thrown onto center stage. Please help me

DRAMA-FREE MOUSE

DEAR MOUSE: Face it, your secret is out. If you prefer not to discuss your private life, all you have to do is say so to those who question you out of curiosity.

But why are you afraid that you'll be treated differently? Whether your co-worker's wife died two weeks or two months ago, he is available. Widowers have told me that women have approached them within DAYS of their wives' funerals. You're acting like you feel guilty for being happy. For both of your sakes, please stop feeling like you're doing something wrong.

DEAR READERS: I am pleased to offer the traditional Thanksgiving Prayer that was penned by my dear mother, Pauline Phillips. No Thanksgiving would be complete for me without it.

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.
We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service,
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.
Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving, everyone!
LOVE, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

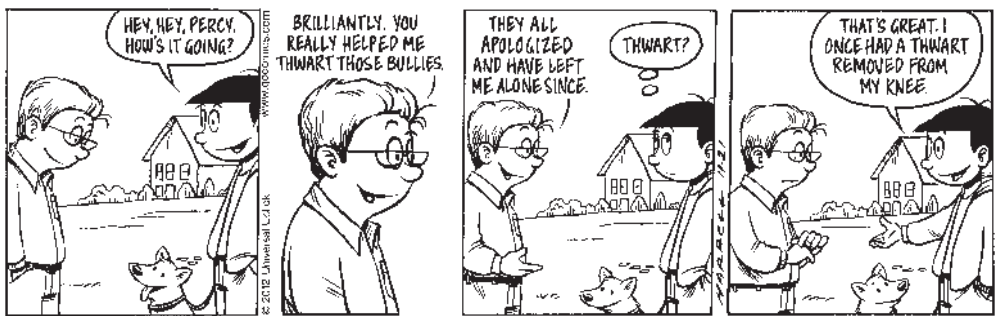
WELL, YOUR HAIRCUT IS A BIG IMPROVEMENT.
YOU LIKE WHAT IT SAYS ON THE BACK OF MY HEAD?
WHAT WHAT SAYS?
DIDN'T THE BARBER SHAVE, "I MAY HAVE A BAD HAIRCUT, BUT YOU'RE DOWNRIGHT UGLY," BACK THERE?!
GOOD HEAVENS, NO!
OK, CHARLIE, GIMME BACK THAT TIP!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

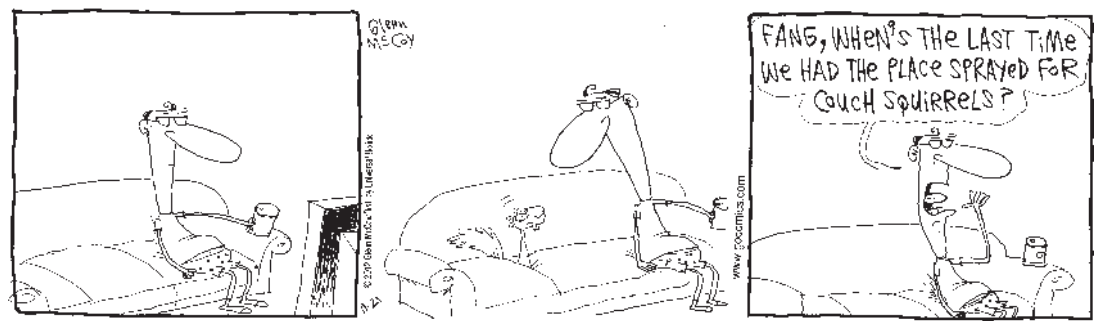
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, HEY, PERCY. HOW'S IT GOING?
BRILLIANTLY. YOU REALLY HELPED ME THWART THOSE BULLIES.
THEY ALL APOLOGIZED AND HAVE LEFT ME ALONE SINCE.
THWART?
THAT'S GREAT. I ONCE HAD A THWART REMOVED FROM MY KNEE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

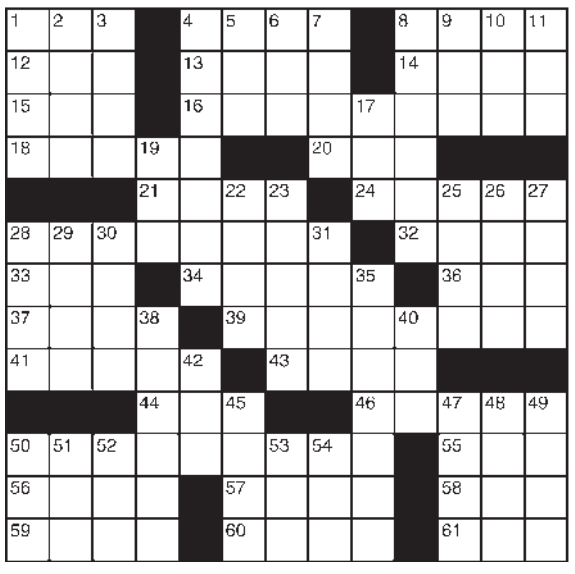
ACROSS
1 James Bond, e.g.
4 "Nip/—"
8 Pizzazz
12 Afternoon affair
13 Curved molding
14 San —, Italy
15 Grecian vessel
16 Diploma
18 Prejudiced person
20 Meadow
21 On the right track
24 Book of maps
28 "Beauty is only —"
32 Region
33 Wrestling win
34 Llamas' range
36 Set of parts
37 Choir voice
39 Chicago-style, as pizza
41 Rage
43 Unsigned (abbr.)
44 Favorite
46 Shul VIP
50 Exemplar of dullness
55 Say it's OK
56 On the briny
57 Prolonged sleep
58 Listending abbr.
59 Feds
60 Animated character
61 "Doo" follower

DOWN
1 Half a ticket
2 Actress Gilpin
3 Masculine side
4 Fat-fried tortilla
5 "That's awful!"
6 Third letter
7 Ship's backbone
8 Lesser substitute
9 Albanian money
10 Parisian pal
11 — sequitur
17 Shell game need
19 Possess
22 Tear
23 Jason's wife, in myth
25 Norse trickster god
26 Blackbirds
27 Rogen or Meyers
28 Hot tubs
29 Scot's garment
30 Really enjoying
31 Hammerhead part
35 Accessory for 29-Down
38 Parentless child
40 "CSI" evidence
42 Kitten's comment
45 Diplomacy
47 Suffered from a cut
48 Alpha follower
49 Pruritus
50 Hammarskjold of UN fame
51 Doctrine
52 Get a glimpse of
53 As well
54 Comedian Philips

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	V	E	R	■	U	T	A	H	■	D	V	D
D	I	R	E	■	P	E	S	O	■	I	O	U
D	I	A	G	N	O	S	I	S	■	A	L	E
■	■	■	A	U	N	T	■	P	E	L	T	S
A	D	D	I	N	■	■	D	I	C	F	■	■
R	U	I	N	■	P	E	A	C	O	C	K	S
A	K	A	■	D	O	N	N	E	■	T	I	C
B	E	T	H	E	S	D	A	■	B	I	L	E
■	■	R	I	C	E	■	■	B	A	C	O	N
H	A	I	R	■	I	■	B	E	A	R	■	■
E	B	B	■	D	I	A	P	H	R	A	G	M
A	B	E	■	E	D	G	E	■	E	V	E	R
D	E	S	■	R	O	S	E	■	L	E	T	S

Yesterday's answer 11-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Rae Jepsen, 27; Jena Malone, 28; Michael Strahan, 41; Goldie Hawn, 67.

Happy Birthday: Use your imagination and you will discover innovative ideas. Tackle projects that you have left unfinished. Focus on learning and gaining experience that will help you advance. You may feel obligated to help others, but you must draw the line if you are asked for monetary donations. Offer time and expertise but not your hard-earned cash. Your numbers are 7, 11, 20, 23, 29, 36, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take criticism lightly and respond positively. Not everyone will act with diplomacy or compassion. Do the best you can, show dedication and loyalty, and you will be rewarded for your efforts eventually. Focus on stability. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look at your accomplishments and size up what's left to be done. Traveling or meetings will help you finalize anything that has been overlooked or caused confusion. A partnership will play an important role in a decision you make or service you offer. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Refrain from overreacting. Calm down and make the most of whatever situation you face. A change of plans can save you from making an emotional mistake. Love is highlighted, but mixing business with pleasure is likely to backfire. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Follow your heart and intuition when it comes to interests, relationships and short trips. You will encounter people who have lots to contribute to a plan you intend to pursue. Speak up and you will gain respect. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stay on top of legal, financial and health matters. It may be difficult to deal with personal problems, but don't neglect what needs to be done. Focus on settlements and investments and you will get support or be able to finalize unfinished business. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can make promises, pull deals together and push your way into any situation you feel will benefit you personally, professionally or physically. However, you must not make an impulsive move when it comes to your finances. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Pay attention to what's going on around you. Recognizing what you are up against will help you make a decision that will get you back to basics so you can maintain what you have and begin to move forward. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Enjoy spending time with the people you love most. A quiet get-together or attending a reunion will lead to conversations that enlighten and encourage you to follow a creative path that allows you to use your skills wisely. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Revisit the circumstances you are facing and the information you are being given. If something sounds too good to be true, back away. You have to be careful not to fall into a trap that could set you back legally, financially or emotionally. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Visit old friends and places. Talks will lead to plans that can get you moving in a profitable or personal direction that will help stabilize your future. Intensity will mount, but the outcome will be favorable. Share your feelings. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Review your situation. Consider what you have to offer, what you need to learn or the skills you need to pick up in order to get ahead. Self-improvement and a good budget should be at the top of your to-do list. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Invest in your talent, skills and experience. Money matters will be resolved and contracts and agreements honored. Focus on taking what you do best and giving it an unusual spin. Greater stability and recognition are heading in your direction. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and passionate. You are loyal, imaginative and persistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						2	6	
					2	9	7	4
				6	7	8		5
			2	8		1	5	3
		1	7					
6	8	2						
2		3	4					
1			5					
4	9	8	6					

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	8	2	5	4	7	3	9
2	9	5	3	7	8	1	6	4
7	4	3	9	6	1	5	8	2
1	7	2	6	8	5	9	4	3
3	8	4	7	2	9	6	5	1
9	5	6	4	1	3	8	2	7
5	6	9	1	3	2	4	7	8
4	2	7	8	9	6	3	1	5
8	3	1	5	4	7	2	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANIMAL CELL STRUCTURES Solution: 9 letters

S	N	Y	C	H	R	O	M	O	S	O	M	E	S	U
S	N	E	M	I	C	O	M	P	O	U	N	D	S	M
S	L	I	U	O	L	A	Y	E	R	F	C	Ⓤ	M	I
L	S	E	E	S	T	I	E	F	I	L	T	Ⓝ	O	C
L	I	E	D	T	S	A	A	S	C	A	S	Ⓘ	O	R
E	Z	D	C	O	O	I	N	S	R	G	O	Ⓣ	T	O
L	E	I	L	O	M	R	T	A	H	E	S	M	H	F
Y	S	G	E	I	R	R	P	L	E	L	E	S	E	I
S	E	E	P	L	U	P	U	L	L	L	M	I	R	L
O	N	S	Y	C	A	B	E	A	P	A	O	N	E	A
S	O	T	T	I	O	N	M	W	S	F	S	A	N	M
O	M	U	L	D	E	S	R	E	T	U	O	G	Z	E
M	R	G	Y	R	O	U	G	H	E	R	B	R	Y	N
E	O	R	G	A	N	E	L	L	E	S	I	O	M	T
G	H	Y	A	W	H	T	A	P	U	O	R	G	E	S

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Anatomy, Body, Build, Cell, Chromosomes, Cilia, Compounds, Digest, Energy, Enzyme, Flagella, Forms, Gogli Apparatus, Group, Help, Hormones, Layer, Life, Lysosome, Microfilaments, Models, Organelles, Organism, Outer, Pathway, Process, Proteins, Ribosomes, Rough ER, Sacs, Size, Small, Smooth ER, Structure, Tissue, Type, Unit, Wall

Yesterday's Answer: Trust

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.
Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Building 4, Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. No phone calls.

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Kaepernick, 49ers whip Bears, 32-7

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As Alex Smith stood on the sideline with a concussion, San Francisco's potential quarterback of the future went to work—and fast.

Strong-armed fill-in Colin Kaepernick made all the right throws, looking every bit a capable NFL No. 1.

Kaepernick passed for 243 yards and two touchdowns in his first career start in place of the injured Smith, and the 49ers whipped the Chicago Bears 32-7 on Monday night in a highly touted NFC showdown that hardly lived up to the hype.

"It's everything I could've ever wished for," Kaepernick said. "It feels great just to be out there."

Kaepernick threw touchdown passes to Vernon Davis and Michael Crabtree, and Kendall Hunter ran for a 14-yard score as San Francisco (7-2-1) jumped out to a big lead by scoring on each of its first four possessions—with Aldon Smith wreaking havoc on the other side of the ball with 5 1/2 sacks.

Jason Campbell, the other quarterback in this matchup of backups for division leaders, threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Marshall in the third quarter but was sacked five times and threw two interceptions in his first start since October 2011 for Oakland.

He faced fierce pressure all night, on the field for the Bears (7-3) as starter Jay Cutler recovers from a concussion suffered eight days earlier—just like Alex Smith.

AP

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick (7) passes against the Chicago Bears during the second half of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.

After Kaepernick's stellar night on the big stage, there's certain to be chatter of a quarterback controversy for the NFC West-leading Niners. And anyone who knows coach Jim Harbaugh knows he's all about competition—at every spot on the field.

"I usually tend to go with the hot hand, and we've got two quarterbacks with hot hands," he said. "We'll make that decision when we have to make it."

Aldon Smith took over the NFL sacks lead with 15, passing Denver's Von Miller with 13, and recorded the second-best total in franchise history behind Fred Dean's six-sack day on Nov. 13, 1983, against New Orleans. Tarell Brown and Dashon Goldson each had an interception for San Francisco's stingy defense, which shut down Campbell, Matt Forte and Co. three years after the teams last met in a 10-6 49ers home win.

"I think I have a thing for night games, I love playing at night," Smith said. "I love playing under the lights."

Kaepernick, Aldon Smith and Hunter sure made general manager Trent Baalke look good for his selections from the 2011 draft class.

And reigning NFL Coach of the Year Harbaugh earned a key victory four days after his own health issue. The 48-year-old Harbaugh underwent a minor procedure for an irregular heartbeat Thursday.

The 49ers added a safety in the fourth quarter after a replay review. With 9:24 left, former San Francisco offensive lineman Chilo Rachal was called for intentional grounding out of the end zone, but Harbaugh challenged and the review showed Rachal's knee was down in the end zone before the ball left.

"Tonight was probably the worst nightmare. We just have to find a way," Campbell said. "It's one game that we lost. We have to pick it back up next week and try to get back on the winning side. Our goals and everything still sit ahead of us."

The soft-spoken, stone-faced Kaepernick went 16 for 23 with a 133.1 passer rating. He completed 12 of his first 14 passes with a 57-yard strike to Kyle Williams that set up Davis' 3-yard TD on the next play—and he already had amassed 126 yards passing by the end of the first quarter.

The 49ers led 17-0 on Hunter's early TD run in the second, quickly topping the 14.8 points the Bears were allowing per game.

Kaepernick threw for 184 yards in the first half alone - an impressive outing for the second-year pro selected in the second round out of Nevada.

"I think after the first drive I felt really comfortable with what they were doing and what we had in our game plan," he said. "I really wasn't too nervous. I've had a lot of time in this offense. My teammates were really supportive."

Frank Gore ran for 78 yards and David Akers kicked field goals of 32, 37 and 32 yards for the 49ers, eager to defend their home field a week after settling for a frustrating 24-24 tie against the division rival St. Louis Rams.

They outgained Chicago 249-35 in a lopsided first half.

Davis got his prime-time moment just how he loves it. Eager to get more involved in the offense down the stretch this season, the tight end had a team-best six catches for 83 yards.

"It felt like somebody took the handcuffs off," Davis said. "It sends out a message we're for real and we'll step up in big games."

Campbell was slow to get up after a hit by Ahmad Brooks with 6:06 left in the third quarter, not an encouraging sign as third-string QB Josh McCown started loosening up.

Chicago dropped into a first-place tie in the NFC North with Green Bay, which owns the tiebreaker after beating the Bears in Week 2. The Bears have lost two straight following a six-game winning streak.

Things were much less stressful on the opposite sideline, where Kaepernick chatted between series with Alex Smith—who was out of uniform and dressed in red 49ers jacket on a crisp, windy fall evening at sold-out Candlestick Park.

Smith, the 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick, was ruled out earlier Monday after being evaluated by team medical director Dr. Dan Garza.

Kaepernick completed an 8-yard pass to Mario Manningham on the first snap and hit Davis twice for 34 yards during the opening drive. But he overthrew Davis in the back of the end zone on third down and Akers kicked his first field goal.

Campbell had little chance as his offensive line was overmatched all night, spoiling his first start since last October and before a broken collarbone derailed his 2011 season and forced him to miss the final 10 games.

Forte was limited to 63 yards on 21 carries - not much better than his 41-yard day on 20 carries in the loss here in 2009, when Cutler threw five interceptions.

"I think we all let the team down at one point or another in the ballgame," Marshall said. "We're just taking turns."

San Francisco featured the opportunistic, ball-hawking defense this time after the Bears came in with an NFL-leading 30 takeaways and 19 interceptions.

"Coming in I think there may have been some questions about who may have been the better defense," Aldon Smith said. "We came out and proved a point tonight."

Source: Pats' Gronkowski has forearm surgery

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—No more end-zone spikes for a while from Rob Gronkowski.

A person familiar with the process said Monday the New England Patriots tight end expects to be sidelined for four to six weeks after having surgery for a broken left forearm. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick gave no update on the high-scoring, free-spirited tight end, who appeared to be hurt while blocking on an extra point late in the Patriots' 59-24 win over the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

Asked during an early afternoon conference call if Gronkowski had undergone surgery, Belichick said, "I really haven't met with our doctors and trainers yet today. I do that at the end of the day. I don't have any updates.

"Whatever the injury information is, we'll release it in a timely fashion, when we're required by the league, just like we always do."

The Patriots gave no estimate of how long Gronkowski, who hasn't missed a game in his three NFL seasons, might be sidelined. But they have to make a quick adjustment with only three days to prepare for Thursday night's game at the New York Jets.

The Patriots (7-3) lead the other three AFC East teams, including the Jets, by three games.

Gronkowski caught seven passes for 137 yards and two touchdowns against the Colts, becoming the first tight end in NFL history with at least 10 touchdowns in three consecutive seasons. He has 53 catches for 748 yards this season.

After his first touchdown on a 4-yard pass midway through the first quarter Sunday, he spiked the ball, causing a nearby official to throw his hands in front of his body for protection. And after the first of his two touchdowns on Oct. 28 in a 45-7 win over the St. Louis Rams in London, Gronkowski did a high-stepping strut to mimic a local tourist attraction then spiked the ball.

"That was a `Palace Guard,'" he joked after the game.

On Sunday, he went to the locker room with team physician Dr. Thomas Gill with 3:55 left in the fourth quarter after blocking on an extra point that increased the victory margin to 35 points.

Gronkowski has played with a hip injury this season and was listed as questionable on the injury report for each of the past seven games. But Belichick voiced no second thoughts of continuing to have him block on kicks.

"I don't think there are any quicker ways to lose a game than getting a kick blocked and run back for a touchdown," he said. "Whoever does it, it's a very important job in the game."

The extra point on which Gronkowski was hurt followed the final touchdown, a 4-yard run by Shane Vereen. After the kick, and while most of his teammates were gathering near placekicker Stephen Gostkowski to congratulate each other, Gronkowski walked straight to the sideline with his left arm hanging by his side.

On the play, Gronkowski had lined up on the far right of the tight formation. Cornerback Marshay Green charged toward a narrow gap to Gronkowski's left. Gronkowski raised his left arm, bent at the elbow. The arm bent back as it contacted Green's left side. Gronkowski's right arm did not touch anyone.

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said Monday morning that he had known about the injury but did not know its extent.

"It's part of this game," he said on his weekly appearance on WEEI radio. "He's got to do his best to get back as soon as possible, and we've got to go out there and win some games without him."

Gronkowski had 10 touchdown catches as a rookie in 2010, then set NFL records for tight ends last year with 17 touchdowns and 1,327 yards receiving. He caught 90 passes. But he sprained his left ankle in the AFC title game and was a nonfactor in the Super Bowl, which New England lost 21-17 to the New York Giants.

The Patriots' other first-string tight end, Aaron Hernandez, has missed the last three games - and a total of six this season - after he sprained his right ankle in Week 2. He has 17 catches for 143 yards and two touchdowns in four games.

"We'll see," Hernandez said Monday when asked if he would play Thursday. Belichick said it might come down to "a game-time decision."

The Patriots will have 10 days following Thanksgiving before they play again, giving Hernandez extra time to recover if he doesn't play.

"I think that a player's availability for the game would be judged on its merits, period, for this game," Belichick said.

Hernandez practiced on a limited basis Monday, as he has before each of the last three games.

Gronkowski is "one of the best players in the league," Hernandez said. "It puts pressure on everybody. Not just one player can just replace him."

The other tight ends on the roster—Daniel Fells, Michael Hoomanawanui and Visanthe Shiancoe—have a total of four receptions. Shiancoe has played just two games since being activated off the injured reserve list. Fells was healthy but inactive and Shiancoe had no catches against the Colts.

"He gets better every time he goes on the field," Belichick said of Shiancoe. "He has a chance to run the plays in our system, which he missed the majority of training camp being able to do that."

Shiancoe is not unfamiliar with a starting role. In his 10th season in the league, Shiancoe came into his own as a Viking. After four ho-hum seasons with the Giants, Shiancoe made the most of his time with Minnesota, topping 500 yards receiving three times in five seasons.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10, in fact, he caught 18 total touchdown passes.

Wizards fall to 0-9 with loss to Pacers

WASHINGTON—There were boos early and at the end for the winless Washington Wizards, who dropped to a franchise-worst 0-9 with a 96-89 loss to the Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

Indiana's David West scored 13 of his season-best 30 points in the fourth quarter, and Roy Hibbert broke out of a slump with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Still without point guard John Wall, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 NBA draft, and starting center Nene—and no one seems to be sure when either injured player will make his season debut—the Wizards are the only team in the NBA without a victory. They started 0-8 a year ago, the club's previous worst opening to a season.

They were led Monday by rookie Bradley Beal's 18 points, 17 coming in the second half.

Jordan Crawford scored 11 on 2-for-12 shooting for Washington, which was jeered by the announced crowd of 14,426 in the opening minutes and again at the closing buzzer.

Washington Wizards guard Jordan Crawford collides with Indiana Pacers center Roy Hibbert, right, in the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Nov. 19, 2012, in Washington.

AP

Nuggets 97, Grizzlies 92

In Memphis, Tenn., Danilo Gallinari scored 26 points, including a 3-pointer with 13 seconds left, and Denver ended Memphis' win streak at eight games.

JaVale McGee finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, and Kenneth Faried added 13 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to help Denver outrebound Memphis 47-33.

The victory snapped a three-game skid for the Nuggets, who handed the Grizzlies their first loss since dropping their season opener against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rudy Gay scored 22 points, Marc Gasol added 16 and Zach Randolph had 12 points and 13 rebounds for Memphis.

Clippers 92, Spurs 87

In San Antonio, Chris Paul had 19 points and eight assists and Los Angeles beat San Antonio for the second time this season.

Matt Barnes had 14 points and Blake Griffin 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, who suffered their second home loss this season. Manu Ginobili added 15 points and Tony Parker 11.

Paul made a five-foot jumper in the lane with 24.6 seconds left to give the Clippers a 91-87 lead. Gary Neal missed a 3-pointer on the subsequent possession, which Eric Bledsoe gathered for his fifth rebound. Bledsoe, who had nine points, made one of two free throws to close it out.

Warriors 105, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Stephen Curry scored 20 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter and overtime and David Lee's layup with 32.8 seconds left helped Golden State beat Dallas.

Curry had six points and three assists in the extra period. The fourth-year guard passed to Lee on his go-ahead basket that put Golden State up 101-99.

O.J. Mayo scored 27 points, including all 11 of the Mavericks' points in overtime. His 8-footer in the lane tied it at 99 with 41.2 seconds left in the extra period.

Lee had 17 points and a season-high 19 rebounds, and rookie Harrison Barnes had 20 points and 12 rebounds for Golden State.

Bobcats 102, Bucks 98

In Charlotte, N.C., Ramon Sessions scored nine of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, including two free throws with 4.2 seconds left to seal Charlotte's win over Milwaukee.

The Bobcats trailed by 11 in the fourth but battled back, going 16 of 16 from the free throw line down the stretch. Sessions' two free throws after Monta Ellis missed a 3-point attempt sent the Bucks to their first road loss and lifted the surprising Bobcats (5-4) back above .500.

Ellis scored 31 points for the Bucks.

Kemba Walker and Byron Mullens each scored 19 points for the Bobcats, while rookie Michael Kidd-Gilchrist turned in another solid effort with 15 points and nine rebounds.

Jazz 102, Rockets 91

In Salt Lake City, reserve Gordon Hayward scored 15 points and Al Jefferson had 14 points and 16 rebounds to help Utah beat Houston.

Randy Foye hit four 3-pointers and scored 14 points for the Jazz, who led by as many as 23 in the first half after opening the second quarter with a 13-0 run. Utah led by 17 at halftime.

The Rockets pulled within nine late in the third, but Houston wouldn't get any closer with leading scorer James Harden on the bench with a fever and upper-respiratory infection. Harden started 0 of 6 and finished with six points in 17 minutes before exiting just before halftime.

Patrick Patterson had 19 points and Jeremy Lin added 13 as Houston lost its third straight.

Hawks 81, Magic 72

In Atlanta, Al Horford scored 15 points and Lou Williams added 14 to lead Atlanta to a win over struggling Orlando.

Zaza Pachulia pulled down 10 rebounds in a reserve role for the Hawks, who have won two straight and three of four.

Glen Davis was the only player to score in double figures with 11 points for the Magic, who have lost two straight and seven of eight.

Orlando seemed to have given itself a break by ending the first quarter with a rare lead. The Magic had trailed after the first 12 minutes in seven of their first nine games.

Marlins salary dump to Toronto finalized

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Marlins' latest payroll purge received final approval Monday from the commissioner's office, and as the team's top baseball executive began to discuss the deal during a conference call, a bad connection generated waves of reverberating noise that filled the phone line.

Nearly a week after the Marlins swung their widely ridiculed trade with Toronto, negative feedback keeps coming.

Commissioner Bud Selig approved the blockbuster deal, however, even though it made Marlins fans irate and made the team a nationwide punch line. The trade sends All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes to the Blue Jays along with pitchers Mark Buehrle and Josh Johnson, catcher John Buck and outfielder Emilio Bonifacio for seven players, none of whom has a big-money contract.

Miami received infielders Yunel Escobar and Adeiny Hechavarria, pitchers Henderson Alvarez, Anthony DeSclafani and Justin Nicolino, catcher Jeff Mathis and outfielder Jake Marisnick.

By swinging the deal only months after the Marlins moved into a new stadium built with taxpayer money, they pared from their books $146.5 million in payroll. That's their net savings after agreeing to send $8.5 million to the Blue Jays as part of the trade.

Marlins president of baseball operations Larry Beinfest said he understood why fans were mad, and confirmed the trade was necessary because owner Jeffrey Loria wanted to pare payroll. Beinfest also conceded the deal will make it harder for the team to recruit free agents in the future.

But Selig decided not to block it.

"This transaction, involving established major leaguers and highly regarded young players and prospects, represents the exercise of plausible baseball judgment on the part of both clubs (and) does not violate any express rule of Major League Baseball and does not otherwise warrant the exercise of any of my powers to prevent its completion," Selig said in a statement. "It is, of course, up to the clubs involved to make the case to their respective fans that this transaction makes sense and enhances the competitive position of each, now or in the future."

The players traded by the Marlins have combined guaranteed salaries of $163.75 million through 2018, including $96 million due Reyes.

"I understand the pause the fans have with the instability in our roster at a time when we were hoping to be very stable in the new stadium," Beinfest said. "It's not a lot of fun."

By contrast, the trade stamps the Blue Jays as contenders in the AL East. They haven't reached the playoffs since winning their second consecutive World Series in 1993.

Miami also finalized a deal with outfielder Juan Pierre, who agreed to a $1.6 million, one-year contract. That leaves the Marlins with an estimated opening-day payroll of $36 million for active players, which would be their lowest since 2008. In the latest figures, Oakland had the lowest payroll in the majors this year at $59.5 million.

While Beinfest said the Marlins acquired championship-caliber talent, fans believe Loria's goal was to increase his profits in the new ballpark rather than put increased revenue into the roster.

"We did receive a payroll range from ownership that we needed to achieve," Beinfest said. "With this transaction, we have achieved that payroll range."

The Marlins flopped as big spenders. They began the year with a franchise-record payroll of $112 million, then went 69-93, their worst record since 1999.

After sinking to last place by midseason, the Marlins traded former NL batting champion Hanley Ramirez, second baseman Omar Infante, right-hander Anibal Sanchez and closer Heath Bell.

"We've finished in last place the past two years, and that is unacceptable," Loria said in a statement. "It's incumbent on us to make the changes necessary to make us a winner again. It may not happen overnight. But with the players we acquired in the second half of last season, coupled with the infusion of players we are acquiring now, we will be returning to Marlins baseball: high energy and hungry."

Reyes, Buehrle and Bell signed multiyear deals as newcomers a year ago during an unprecedented Marlins spending spree, and Beinfest acknowledged other free agents might be now reluctant to sign with Miami.

"It'll be a factor," he said. "I don't think we're happy about this at all. I understand there may be some disdain in the marketplace. We won't know until we get into those negotiations with free agents. It's definitely not great for the club, and we're going to have to deal with it."

Miami's biggest remaining star, slugger Giancarlo Stanton, has been among those expressing anger about the trade. Beinfest said he hadn't talked with Stanton about the deal.

"I know this is an emotional time," Beinfest said. "I'm sure it has been tough for him. Our feeling was to maybe let the dust settle a little bit and then talk to Giancarlo. I hear the frustration. It's not unexpected. This has been a tough go, but we think it's best for us moving forward."

Players' union head Michael Weiner withheld comment, saying he was awaiting more input from Major League Baseball.

In January 2009, the union reached an agreement with MLB and the Marlins covering 2010-12 which Weiner said was a "response to our concerns that revenue sharing proceeds have not been used as required. As part of the deal, Weiner said the team planned to "use such proceeds to increase player payroll annually as they move toward the opening of their new ballpark."

Selig said he was sensitive to how Marlins fans reacted to the trade.

"Baseball is a social institution with important social responsibilities, and I fully understand that the Miami community has done its part to put the Marlins into a position to succeed with beautiful new Marlins Park," Selig said. "Going forward, I will continue to monitor this situation with the expectation that the Marlins will take into account the sentiments of their fans, who deserve the best efforts and considered judgment of their club. I have received assurances from the ownership of the Marlins that they share these beliefs and are fully committed to build a long-term winning team that their fans can be proud of."

Feria, Factor lead Rotary caging awardees

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Emerson Feria and Prince Factor came away as the most decorated recipients over the weekend during the Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League U16 and U20 awards presentations at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

U16 Rollers' Feria was selected as the regular season most valuable player, while Rollers 1's Factor was hailed as the U16 finals MVP and both young guns made the cut as U20 Fabulous Five selections alongside league scoring champion Ichitaro Faisao of Mariana Resort Proa, U20 MVP Jimmy Tudela of the Sonics, and Proa's up-and-coming center Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz. Notably, Feria suited up for Hi-5's U20 squad and Factor manned the post for U20's Rollers 2.

The U20 awards were presented this past Friday evening by Basketball Association of the NMI's talent officer, Elias Rangamar and Rotary Club Of Saipan members Richard Cody and Kelly Butcher.

Then the following morning, Rangamar and Butcher were joined by Rotary Club president Peter Shilling and Rotarian Laurie Peterka to pass out the U16 decorations.

Other individual awardees included U16Rollers 1's C.J. Morales and U20 Sonics' Nevin Salem. The former averaged 16.5 points per game on the year to nab his division's scoring crown, while the latter was selected as the U20 finals MVP.

In turn, Feria and Morales each earned spots on the U16 Fab Five catalog alongside Matson Consulting Proa's William Camacho, Hi-5's Jethro Cruz, and Rollers 2's Mike Espinosa.

Notably, the Top 4 place finishers of both divisions, in addition to a special pair of delegates who upheld good sportsmanship, all received team trophies.

Coupled with their respective championships, U20's Sonics and U16's Rollers 1 received pennant championship honors for each finishing out their seasons undefeated.

Other team awards included runner-up accolades for both Proa squads and second runner-up spoils going out to U20's Hi-5 and U16's Rollers 2, while U20's Rollers 2 and U16's Hi-5 received third runner-up team trophies.

The Team Sportsmanship awards went to U20's Agape Torchbearers and U16's Hi-5; and last, but not least, U20 Sonics' Omar Ajoste and U16 Rollers 1's Joe Diaz were deemed best coaches.

Upon receiving his trophy, Diaz expressed thanks to his wife, Verna Babauta, and assistant coach Fred Litulumar for all of their help day in and day out, while Ajoste extended a special added thanks to his sponsor Jesse Tudela with high hopes that the latter's father, who has recently fallen ill, recovers.

XGA November Ace this Saturday

The X-clusive Golfers Association is holding its November Ace of the Month Tournament this Saturday at Coral Ocean Point Resort Club. Show time is set for noon with a 1pm tee off.

After this weekend's event, members still vying for a bid to compete in the finale Ace of Aces Tournament will have just one more chance to do so.

Last month newcomer, Ernest Sablan qualified as the group's October ace winner and joined defending champions and January ace J.J. Cabrera, February's Mike Sablan, March's Kisoo Kim, April's Yoon Jae Tuk, May's An Hun Jin, June's Park Hong, July's Luis Cepeda, August's John Cepeda, and September's Carl Hocog.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members and, in contrast to its name, the club is open to the public and anyone is welcome can join, however registration begins at the turn of the calendar year as the group's January event is coupled as both the beginning and end of the season. The Ace of Ace champion of this year by tradition is also hailed as the January Ace of the new year.

Newcomers are required to pay a $50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform ($25/polo shirt); membership renewal for returning members is only $40.

On the day of events, players are also required to foot a green fee along with an added modest charge that goes toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

For more information, contact XGA secretary JJ Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

COOL

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was then forced to duel Posse for the second finals ticket last night and the winner of the rubber match must beat Cool Kids Only twice in today's championship round to steal the title. Game 1 of the finals is set for 6pm, while Game 2, in necessary, will be played at 6:30pm.

Cool Kids Only and Ball So Hard arranged a semis showdown after sweeping their first two games. The battle of two undefeated squads then remained close after the first period with Cool Kids Only holding a shaking 12-10 advantage. Madeleine Alegre knocked 8 of her 10 markers in the first 10 minutes of play to put Cool Kids Only in the driver's seat, while Kaylani Lebria scored 8 to keep Ball So Hard in the thick of the fight.

The nip-and-tuck game continued in the second half and Pagarao went on to deliver the clutch baskets for Cool Kids Only, as she made a layup and a triple in the closing minutes of the match.

Pagarao top-scored for Cool Kids Only with her 11 points, while Lebria paced Ball So Hard with a game-high 16 markers.

In the loser's bracket playoff played also last Monday, Posse kept its bid for a finals slot after downing Tappers, 34-24.

After missing the first half of the knockout match, Jimmy came out smoking in the second, connecting on four triples and scoring 16 points to lift Posse to the 10-point win.

Dyenina Diaz added 8, nailing all her production in the first half to keep Posse afloat. Actually, Posse even took the lead despite the absence of Tudela, as Coquina Teregeyo ended the first half with back-to-back treys for their 14-12 cushion.

Tudela then opened the second half with a triple and Tappers failed to answer, as the latter's baskets came sporadically, while the Posse big man was on a zone from downtown. Tudela fired 12 straight markers at one point in the second half and made eight of Posse's 10 field goals in that frame to eliminate Tappers.

First Game

Cool Kids Only 28 – Pagarao 11, Alegre 10, Adams 4, Dela Rosa 3.

Ball So Hard 26 – Lebria 16, Williams 8, Aranda 2.

Scoring by halves: 12-10, 28-26.

Second Game

Posse 34 – Tudela 16, Teregeyo 10, Diaz 10.

Tappers 24 – Bartolo 10, Francisco 8, Ferrer 4, Rogoyawa 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-12, 34-24.

JONES

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fatigue. Thea Minor also played several games last Saturday and was a no-show in her 7pm semis duel against Jones.

With a free pass in the semis and a straight sets win in the finals, the real test for Jones was his first match against the top-ranked and last year's finalist Bobby Cruz. The 18-year-old netter dropped the opening set, 3-6, but stunned his seeded foe with a 6-2, 6-3 win in the last two sets last Friday, also at AMP.

The two other games in the men's open last Friday had close results with Minor surviving Russel Buenaventura, 7-6 (10-8), 6-7, 10-8, and Miller slipping past Lope Padilla, 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.

In other adults singles results, Mikayla Lopez, Guam's Brian Tuncap, Don Castillo, Bong Gamab, and Carol Lee topped their respective divisions.

Lopez prevailed in the round-robin women's open singles after beating Thea Minor, 4-6, 6-3, 10-6, and Guam's Camdyn Nadler, 6-1, 6-1.

In the women's 4.0 singles, Carol Lee won the battle of junior players after edging Isabel Heras at the AMP court last Sunday, 7-5, 7-5. Lee advanced to the finals after eliminating Emily Kjones, 6-1, 6-1, and top seed Lydia Tan, 6-3, 3-6, 10-6. Heras drew a bye in the first round and then thwarted Kinumi Taniguchi in the semis, 6-3, 6-4 to set a finals tiff with Lee.

Tuncap, who was ousted in the semis in the boys U15 singles, did not return to Guam empty-handed, as he clinched the men's 4.0 singles title. Brian first swept Michael Ren, 6-2, 6-2, and then pulled off an upset over No. 1 seed Buddy Garote, 6-3, 6-2, before defeating older brother Victor in the finals, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2, last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court.

Castillo also swept finals foe Steven Boyer at the AMP court, 6-1, 6-1, to take the men's 3.0 crown last Sunday. Boyer made it to the title game after stunning top-ranked Jaime Hagos in the semis, 6-4, 7-5, while Castillo also eliminated seeded opponent Romulo Padoro, 6-4, 6-2.

The men's 40-and-above singles finals went the distance with Gamab outlasting Kentaro Imaya at the Fiesta court last Sunday, 7-5, 5-7, 10-8. Gamab automatically marched into the semis after getting a bye in the first round and barged into the finale, following a 6-1, 6-0 win over Gabriele Colombo in the upper half of the draw. In the lower half, the second-seeded Imaya also got a bye in the first round and took the second finals berth after defeating Gary Ramsey, 6-0, 6-2.

FITTING

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tensity level from the players," NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said when asked for an assessment of the fall festival.

"The U6 grassroots festival saw 35 kids having fun and going through the various skills stations. Overall, it was a fun and exciting day for all the young footballers and some were already asking when spring season would start. This fall season we saw new faces and we are happy to see our continued growth. We are also very happy to see the improvement of many youth players," Salas added.

Officials of the various clubs echoed Salas' observation on the improvement of the players' skills after playing for more than three months in the fall league and they hope to bring the momentum in the next season

"It was a good season for Shirley's FC, especially with our U12 and U15 players showing a lot of promise and we can't wait to continue our recruitment and coaching clinic for the spring season," said Shirley's FC general secretary Puy Macario.

Ariel Mariano of Tan Holdings said after three years of joining NMIFA, the club is starting to see the fruits of its youth program.

"Our players' skill level is definitely higher than when we started three years ago. With our players consistently playing weekly games and training, they become competitive. Some even played in higher age group, " Mariano said.

Matansa's Joven Cruz had the same praises for their age group teams, especially the U12 squad of coach Rengesuul Yobech.

"I think our current U12 team is one of the best the club ever had in this age group. We have a good group of players. They all love playing and listen very well to their coach," Cruz said.

"They (U12 players) responded really well to the challenges of the season and the festival. They learned a lot from playing in the fall season and joining the festival gave them a sense of accomplishment and you could see that in their faces. They had a lot of fun and look forward to the next season with the same winning roster," Yobech said.

For its U8 and U10 teams, Cruz thanked coaches Semisi and Napa for dedicating time to develop the skills of their players.

MP United, which had two teams each in the U8, U10, and U12, matching Paire's entry, almost had a complete attendance in its respective age groups and had the players' family members cheering for the club.

"Excited parents and players are there as early as 8am with all the drinks and food to share with the team. The kids had so much fun that they requested for more games. The festival was well attended," MP United's Ana Hilario said.

Club president Vickie Izuka said their strikers are motivated to play better as other squads continued to improve and challenge MP United's much-experienced players.

"The season was a tough one as many of our competitors have improved tremendously. Our U12 teams had several draws, which were quite exciting games to watch. The new 'play-up' rule has also heightened the competition and skills of our youth players," said Izuka.

The "play-up" rule is implemented for players who have high skill level and they are allowed to compete in older age groups.

GCA

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this time the Eagles had a wide winning margin, as runner-up Saipan International School earned only 77 points. Marianas High School finished at third with its 57 markers.

Kensuke Kimura gave GCA the most points, while Patrick Reyes, Zen Yu Su, Jireh Yobech, Shigeki Tenorio, Edward Kim, Leona Pangelinan, and Ryu Tanzawa also contributed to the Eagles' cause. Kimura handed GCA 18 points from the individual races after ruling the 200m freestyle (2:06.64) and 400m freestyle (4:25.77) events. Tenorio added 16 with his first place finish in the 50m butterfly (31.84 seconds) and runner-up in the 200m individual medley (2:36.91).

Yobech and Su both joined the 50m freestyle race and placed third and fourth with their times of 45.45 seconds and 46.64 seconds, respectively, to get 6 and 5 points. Tanzawa and Reyes were both entered in the 100m freestyle with the former earning 6 points for finishing third (1:35.56) and the latter receiving 5 markers for ranking fourth (1:36.57). Reyes also raced in the 100m breaststroke (1:54.05) to give GCA 9 more points.

Reyes Tanzawa, Yobech, and Su then got 18 points from the 200m freestyle relay (2:27:32), while GCA received 18 more markers from the mixed 200m medley relay team of Kimura, Tenorio, Kim, and Pangelinan (3:12.08).

The SIS quartet of Dylan Ackerman, Victoria Chentsova, Min Suk Kim, and Takumi Sugie won the other relay race in high school after clocking in at 2:16.19 in the mixed 200m freestyle relay. The MHS Dolphins' Tiger Yatsui, Makani Gramlich, Daime Rivera, and Lalaine Santomin placed second with a time of 2:41.24.

Chentsova also raced in the 200m freestyle and submitted 2:23.01 to give SIS 9 points. She then collected 9 more markers after recording 1:19.65 in the 100m freestyle race and outclassing Santomin (1:48.73).

Sugie and Ackerman also earned 9 points each from individual events with the former timing in at 2:35.46 in the 200m IM and beating Tenorio. Ackerman posted 33 seconds in the 50m freestyle to prevail over Yatsui (42.57) and four others.

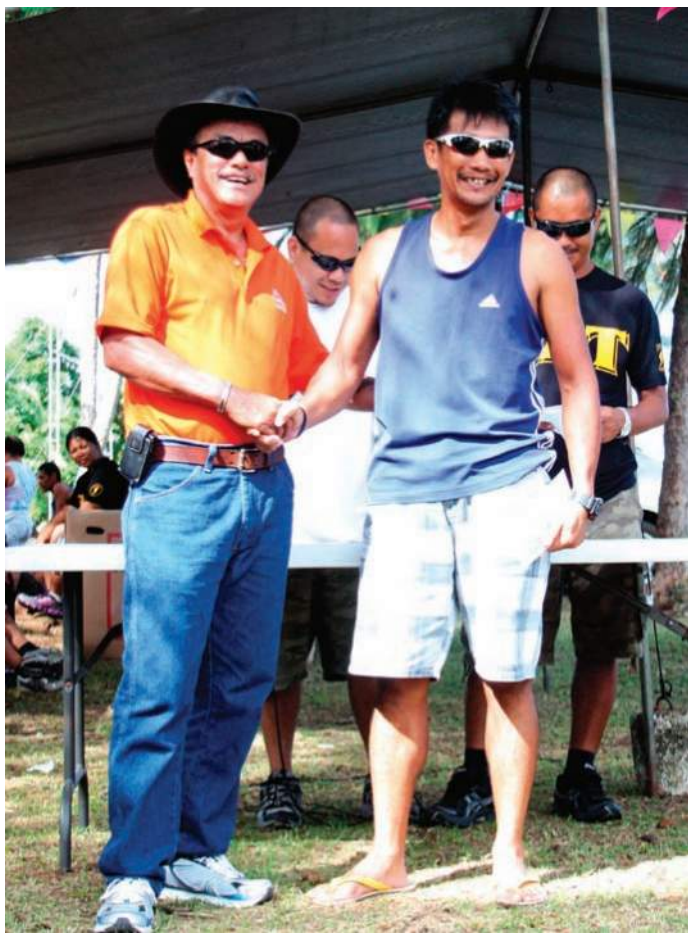
Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank the schools and Mariana Resort for making the meet possible.

"We had a great turn out and many kids were exposed to competitive swimming. Saipan Swim Club would like to thank Mariana Resort for their continued support as well as their tireless maintenance of the pool. We would also like to thank the coaches and swimmers from each school for participating and all the volunteer timers. It is because of their support that Saipan Swim Club can continue to mold and shape our youth through sports," said meet director and SSC coach Jacoby Winkfield.

Tour De Tinian 100K Veteran's Day Race

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From second left, Saipan's Gerald Rangamar and Jay Diyco accept the first prize in the two-man 50K relay division from Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, left, during the Tour De Tinian 100K Veteran's Day Mountain Bike Race's awards presentation last Nov. 11.



John Arceo won 36 to 45 age division.

Paul Sauget of Guam ruled the 26 to 35 age division of the race.

Mieko Carey, center, poses for a photo with Biker's Association of Tinian event organizer Dawn Sarmiento, right, and a fellow BAT volunteer at the finish line.

Cesar Fortaleza won the 46 & above age division.

14-year old 25 & under age division winner Erico Castro crosses the finish line fifth overall in 4:55:33.

The four-person 25K relay winners Edgard Acollador, James Clemente Edgardo Jabinar, and Donny Rivera (not listed in order).

From right, men's open winner Nap Dizon and runner-up Lewie Tenorio pose for a photo with an event sponsor after completing the course.

From left, James, Zach, Sen. Jude, and Dr. Julian Hofschneider pose for a group photo after completing the course.

The riders jetted off the starting line bright and early at 6:30am.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jones bags men's open crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Third time's the charm for Rafael Jones, who claimed the men's open title in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held over the weekend at the various courts on Saipan.

Jones, who was eliminated in the first round of his men's open debut in the annual tournament in 2010 and bowed to eventual champion Todd Montgomery in the semifinals last year, this time brought home the crown after sweeping Dong Min Lee in the finals yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, 6-2, 6-2.

Lee and Jones arranged their championship showdown after getting free finals tickets last Saturday. Lee won by default over Christian Miller, who decided not to play his late night semis game last Saturday due to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rafael Jones gets ready to serve against Amami Sakano during their semis game in the boys U18 singles event in the 4th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

GCA retains high school title

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Patrick Reyes races in the 100m breaststroke event in the 19th SSC All Schools Swimming Championships held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy made it two in a row in the high school division of the SSC All Schools Swimming Championships.

The Eagles ruled the 19th edition of the annual swim meet after collecting 108 points in the 2012 competition held on Nov. 10 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. GCA won last year's high school race after edging 2010 champion Saipan Southern High School, 70-69, but

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Cool Kids Only takes first finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cool Kids Only secured the first finals seat in the 2012 Kanoa Resort 3-on-3 Co-ed Basketball Tournament after slipping past Ball So Hard in the winner's bracket semifinals, 28-26, last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Five straight points from Lalaine Pagarao in the homestretch brought Cool Kids Only to the championship game and dropped Ball So Hard to the loser's bracket. Ball So Hard

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rachel Abrams, seen here going for a shot in Kanoa's women's caging, played for Cool Kids Only, which advanced to the finals of the 3-on-3 tournament after winning over Ball So Hard last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Fitting finale in NMIFA fall festival

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players in the U6 age group participate in a drill conducted during last Saturday's 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall Festival at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twenty one teams and more than 300 players participated in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall Festival held at Koblerville Elementary School and Hopwood Junior High School.

Age groups squads from Matansa Football Club, Shirley's FC, Tan Holdings FC, MP United, and Paire FC suited up in fun games for the entire morning of Saturday at the Koblerville and Hopwood pitches to wrap up the fall season.

"It was a great finale for our U8, U10, and U12 youth players with 21 teams playing in all the three divisions. It was great to see all the support from the parents and although teams played short matches, some of the games were very competitive and you could see the in-

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